

Iraq reports attack on shipping

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked a large naval target — a term used by Baghdad to refer to an oil tanker or merchant ship — off the Iranian coast on Sunday and scored a direct and effective hit. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying the attack took place at 9:40 a.m. and all aircraft returned safely to base. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from independent shipping sources in the Gulf during the last week of March. Two were Iranian vessels, the 162,046-tonne Avaj and the 176,007-tonne Dena, and the third was the 123, 600-tonne Liberian tanker Achilles. The agency also said President Saddam Hussein presided over an eight-hour meeting of the general command of the Iraqi armed forces. Several field commanders also attended. It did not say what was discussed in the meeting. A relative lull in ground fighting in the Iran-Iraq war has now lasted for more than a month. President Hussein presented bravery medals to several commanders and told them that the "conspiracy of aggression on Iraq was designed against the whole Arab Nation."

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Syria brokers cease fire at camps

BEIRUT (R) — A Syrian-sponsored ceasefire and an agreement to end nearly five months of a food and medical blockade on two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut has been reached, a statement by the Shi'ite Amal militia said late Sunday night. "An agreement for a total ceasefire on all the camps' fronts as of 06:00 GMT tomorrow (Monday) and a lift of siege of both Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh has been reached," the statement, issued after a meeting at the Syrian headquarters said (See earlier story below).

Clark: Palestinians face discrimination in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Palestinians face more discrimination than any other ethnic group in the United States, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark told a convention of Arab-Americans on Saturday. "The true test of a society's commitment to human rights is her commitment to human rights for the Palestinian people," Mr. Clark said at a three-day convention of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Mr. Clark, who served as attorney general under President Lyndon Johnson, said Palestinians had a poor image because many Americans associate them with terrorism. "We are so easily deceived by these fears," he said. "It is difficult to protect the lives and rights of Palestinians in a climate of fear."

Egypt holds Muslim fundamentalists

CAIRO (AP) — On the eve of general elections, the government arrested scores of members of the officially outlawed fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, which in alliance with two other parties is expected to win a minority in the new parliament, a senior official and Brotherhood members said Sunday. Brotherhood officials have claimed that up to 1,500 members who have been active in the electioneering campaign have been rounded up around the country on Friday and Saturday and intimidated by police authorities. Fakhreddin Khaled, a senior official in the Interior Ministry whose office Saturday denied the arrests, told AP that less than 100 Brotherhood members had been arrested.

Shamir, Weizman clash over Peres

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet dispute erupted Sunday over a trip to Spain by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to try to enlist support for an international Middle East peace conference. "I hope he doesn't succeed," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said before Mr. Peres left for Madrid (See page 2) on an official three-day visit. Minister without portfolio Ezer Weizman, aligned with Mr. Peres' Labour Party, expressed outrage at the weekly closed-door cabinet session and accused Mr. Shamir of harming Israel's image, a Weizman aide told Reuters.

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Amman-Rabat statement calls for urgent end to Gulf war, stresses need for summit

King arrives in the Hague after talks in Morocco

His Majesty meets Dutch leaders and Tindemans today

Combined agency despatches

THE HAGUE — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here on Sunday on the second leg of a four-nation visit aimed at securing support for efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.

The King, who arrived here from Morocco, was received at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and senior Dutch officials. The King was to be a guest of the Queen at the royal palace, Guis Ten Bosch, Sunday night before

Hassan II of Morocco on Saturday, immediately after his arrival in Rabat, and on Sunday. At the conclusion of the talks, a joint statement, issued simultaneously in Rabat and Amman, called for an immediate end to the six-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war and emphasised the need to convene an Arab summit as soon as possible.

The communique said Jordan and Morocco "agreed on the urgent need for an immediate halt to the war between Iran and Iraq, ending the spilling of blood between these two Muslim countries." It said a solution to the

The King held talks with King

Arab relief convoy reaches besieged Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (R) — Six trucks laden with food, clothes and blankets donated by Kuwait drove into a besieged Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut on Sunday, witnesses said.

Syrian military observers watched as the supplies, given by the Kuwaiti government and Red Crescent, were delivered to Bourj Al Barajneh, where militant forces have been blockaded at least 12,000 refugees for the last five months.

It was the fifth relief convoy to reach Bourj Al Barajneh. An attempt to supply 4,000 refugees in the nearby Shatila camp ended in bloodshed on Friday when a truck carrying food provided by Saudi Arabia was destroyed by a rocket. Two children were reported killed and seven wounded in the attack.

Palestinian sources said Sunday's delivery to Bourj Al Barajneh was matched by equal amounts of goods given to the Shi'ite Amal militia for distribution to Shi'ite living around the beleaguered Palestinian camps — the condition for several previous

relief convoys.

Cheering Palestinian children gathered at the entrance to Bourj Al Barajneh to welcome the trucks, the witnesses said.

"We thank the Syrian government and the Syrians in Lebanon for helping us get the trucks into the camps," said Abdul Ghani Asho, secretary-general of the Geneva-based Arab Red Crescent.

Mr. Asho, a Saudi Arabian, told reporters more emergency supplies were expected from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

He had earlier warned that the Arab relief effort might be called off if the convoy was blocked. "If we fail to enter today, we will stop everything and go back to our country," he said.

Amal announced in February that it had lifted its siege of the two Beirut camps. But at least 30 women have been killed while leaving Bourj Al Barajneh to buy food and five people were killed when they tried to leave Shatila a week ago.

The go-ahead for Sunday's

convoy came after Syrian military observers, representatives of the pro-Syrian Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) and Amal officials met to discuss safe passage for the Arab-donated supplies.

Khalifa Al Oun, an official of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, told Reuters he accompanied the trucks overland from Kuwait to Beirut, a journey of at least 1,500 kilometres.

"The supplies were granted by the Kuwaiti government and Red Crescent following a request by the Arab League," he said.

Amal has besieged the two refugee camps in Beirut and Rashidieh in South Lebanon in a Syrian-backed effort to contain what is seen as a resurgence in Palestinian military power.

About 880 people have been killed in the Amal-Palestinian "camps war" in Beirut and the south since last September.

Syrian troops took control of west Beirut in February, but have not intervened to end the Amal siege or to halt violence around the shell-blasted shantytowns.

Lightning cited as cause for Garuda crash

MEDAN, Indonesia (Agencies) — Mourning families buried victims of Indonesia's worst air crash on Sunday, after a DC-9 of Garuda Indonesia Airways plunged into a runway in a ball of flame during a thunderstorm, killing 28 people.

The plane crashed while landing in the north Sumatran city of Medan on Saturday, injuring 17 people. Officials at Medan's Elizabeth Hospital told Reuters two died on Sunday and several more were in a critical condition, with severe burns. First reports said 34 people were killed.

The jet burst into flames and exploded into pieces at Medan airport while attempting a landing in bad weather, an airline spokesman said.

A bolt of lightning turned the aircraft into an inferno as it was landing, airline chief Reyn Lumenta said.

The dead included a Japanese diplomat and two Japanese engineers.

Mr. Lumenta told journalists in Jakarta the pilot reported that his aircraft, carrying 37 passengers and eight crew, was hit by a bolt of lightning during a tropical storm as it was landing in Medan. He quoted a transcript of the pilot's last words as saying: "I have been hit by lightning and losing altitude."



Gazans hold union elections in defiance of Israeli army

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Commercial and public service workers in the occupied Gaza Strip have defied the Israeli army and held trade union elections for the first time in 20 years.

An Israeli spokesman said organisers of the election on Saturday "knew their actions were illegal because the union does not meet certain criteria such as keeping protocols or maintaining a quorum for meetings."

The daily Jerusalem Post reported that Israeli troops tried to prevent the election by barring union members from entering the union office and confiscating printed ballots and ballot boxes.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said the army was investigating the report but that "it is not military policy to intervene in non-security related affairs."

Trade union officials said they organised the vote "to breathe new life" into the dormant institution and teach workers their economic rights, the Post report said.

The paper quoted a military official as saying the army

opposed the elections because they "encourage hostile elements."

Hossein Ibrahim Abu Nar, one of the union officials elected Saturday, said the Israeli government opposed worker organisation because it would threaten the current flow of cheap labour to Israel.

Some 42,000 Gazans work in Israel and many are paid less than the country's minimum wage.

About 600,000 Palestinians live in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel shut down six trade unions in Gaza in 1967 but allowed them to reopen in 1980 under pressure from the International Labour Organisation, the Post quoted a volunteer for the Al Haq human rights organisation as saying.

But the volunteer said Israel still had not allowed the unions to hold elections. In February the Carpenters and Building Workers' Union chose new leaders but the military government has refused to recognise them, he said.

About 177 of the union's 259 members voted in the election Saturday, the Post said.

China reportedly sold arms worth \$3b to Iran

ABU DHABI (AP) — Iran and China have signed arms deals worth more than \$3 billion in the past two years, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported Sunday.

The semi-official daily Al Itihad said China had emerged as Iran's key arms supplier, despite repeated denials by both governments.

Peking's military connections to Iran were underscored last month when Tehran deployed Chinese-made coast-to-sea missiles along the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf through which pass about 20 per cent of the West's oil supplies.

Al Itihad attributed the report to well-informed sources in London.

It said the first arms deal was signed early 1985 and was valued at \$1.6 billion. The second, worth \$1.5 billion, was signed later in that year or early in 1986, it said.

The newspaper said Chinese arms supplies which Iran received in the summer of 1986 helped the Iran's war efforts against Iraq. It said that shipment included 12 J-6 and 18 J-7 warplanes, the Chinese version of the Soviet MIG-19s and MIG-21s, 440 Type-59 tanks, copies of the Soviet T-54, 180 anti-aircraft missile-launchers and 400 anti-aircraft batteries.

It also included unspecified amounts of 122-mm and 130-mm artillery guns, multi-barreled rocket-launchers and surface-to-air missiles identical to the Soviet SAM-2s.

The newspaper said Iran later received from China HY-2 anti-ship missiles, a version of the Soviet-designed SS-N-2, or Styx. Western intelligence sources have said Styx missile batteries have been deployed near Hormuz.

Al Itihad also noted that North Korea "has played since the 1980's, and continues to play, a major role in arming the Iranian force."

Palestinians stage protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip protested Sunday outside the Israeli prime minister's office against Israel's refusal to allow them to be reunited with their families. Carrying posters that said "Let Our People Go," the protesters demanded an easing of residency restrictions separating thousands of Palestinians from their spouses and children in the occupied areas. Israel refuses to allow many Palestinians to move to the occupied territories on the grounds that resources there cannot support the thousands who want to go. The Committee for the Renunciation of Palestinian Families, which staged the demonstration on the day the cabinet discussed Soviet Jewish immigration, said Israel has recently toughened restrictions on visitors to the territories. Israel allows Palestinian visitors to the occupied territories to remain for one to three months, and there is a three-month waiting period for return visits to the West Bank, and a six-month wait before those wanting to re-enter Gaza can apply for a new visitor's permit.

Syria: No Euro-Arab contacts until EC lifts sanctions on Damascus

TUNIS (Agencies) — Syria on Sunday put a brake on European Community (EC) attempts to encourage an international Middle East peace conference, saying Euro-Arab contacts should be blocked until EC sanctions against Damascus are lifted.

Speaking to reporters after an Arab League foreign ministers session here, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Arab states supported Syria's stand on the EC sanctions, which were imposed last November after a British court case implicated Syrian agents in a plot to blow up an Israeli airliner.

Syria denied involvement, but at Britain's prodding the EC imposed sanctions which, although largely symbolic, included an arms embargo and curbed diplomatic activity.

"I can say that the Arab ministers have expressed solidarity with Syria as long as these European measures are implemented," Mr. Sharaa said.

"Therefore it was agreed that we cannot as Arabs resume the Euro-Arab dialogue as long as this obstacle is there, as long as the European measures against Syria remain there."

The February statement by the 12-nation community in favour of a peace conference was broadly welcomed in the Arab World, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Both Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleh Ibrahim raised the issue of the peace conference on Saturday, the first day of the 21-member Arab League foreign ministers' meeting, and urged that a long-delayed Arab summit be held to prepare the ground.

In Brussels, Belgian Foreign

Minister Leo Tindemans said Sunday he would visit Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel this month on behalf of the EC as part of moves to gain support for the called-for international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Tindemans, who will travel in his capacity as current president of the EC Council of Ministers, told reporters he would not visit Syria.

When EC states declared their support for a peace conference, to be held under United Nations auspices, in February, Mr. Tindemans said he would visit the Middle East only if he received assurances of serious willingness to negotiate.

Mr. Tindemans spoke on Sunday after a private meeting of EC foreign ministers.

Referring to the EC call for an international conference on the Middle East, he said: "The idea has been almost universally welcomed. We now have to continue and maintain the momentum."

Mr. Tindemans was in New York last week to sound out U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the conference.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has urged the community to play a "middleman" role in helping his country normalise relations with the Soviet Union, an Israeli condition for attending.

Heads of delegation to the Tuus meeting discussed the "camps war" in Lebanon in a closed-door session Saturday night after Syria had walked out before a speech by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the issue to the opening session.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief accuses Syria of direct involvement on the side of the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Moscow and Paris in war of words

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union accused France on Sunday of trying to undermine a Kremlin reform drive by indulging in "spy mania," as a dispute over alleged espionage of European space secrets broadened with the announcement of more expulsions.

Moscow, which Saturday night ordered out four French diplomats and two businessmen after France had announced the expulsion of three Soviet envoys, has denied involvement in a spy network alleged to have sought secrets about Europe's French-built Ariane rocket.

Paris meanwhile disclosed on Sunday that it had ordered a total of six Soviet citizens to leave France — the three diplomats last week and three others.

Commenting on the affair on Sunday, the Communist Party

newspaper Pravda said the French secret services were directing a campaign to discredit the Soviet Union in order to dampen French interest in changes under way in the country.

It said French press reports on the Ariane affair read like cheap thrillers and were based on deliberate intelligence leaks aimed at fostering an image of "aggressive communism" and undermining efforts at détente.

The spy dispute began last month when France charged seven people with spying for a foreign power after investigations at the Normandy factory which builds the Ariane engine. Among those arrested were a Soviet citizen and her French husband.

On Thursday Paris ordered three Soviet diplomats to leave

France within eight days for "activities unconnected with their mission and status," words often used to denote spying.

The French Foreign Ministry said Sunday that the tit-for-tat Soviet expulsion of four French diplomats and two businessmen from Moscow was unjustified retaliation.

"It is a measure of pure retaliation, lacking any justification," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "The French government can only regret the inspiration of this measure contrary to the interests of relations between the two countries."

The statement said the four French diplomats and two businessmen "in no way breached their obligations." It insisted that all six Soviets expelled committed serious breaches.

Gorbachev postpones Czech visit because of 'slight cold'

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has postponed his visit to Czechoslovakia because of "a slight cold," Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny said Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev's visit had been expected to start Monday. But Mr. Narozny told a news conference that the visit now was expected to take place later this week.

But he added, "the exact date of the visit will be notified to you in time."

Asked to explain his initial announcement that the Gorbachev visit was postponed by mutual agreement, Mr. Narozny told reporters: "As journalists you know very well that in the process of preparing every summit visit always, the most suitable time is being sought for its implementation."

He said that "with the regard to (Mr. Gorbachev's visit) it has been planned that the visit will take place during the coming week."

U.S. said increasing Stinger supplies to Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is clandestinely shipping 600 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to seven rebel groups in Afghanistan, leading a senator to question whether appropriate security measures are being taken, according to a published report Sunday.

Sen. Dennis Deconcini, an opposition Democrat, told the Washington Post that he has received a classified report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) on the safeguards used in connection with the Stingers being exported. The GAO is Congress' investigative arm.

"It gives me great concern, but I can't go into it," Mr. Deconcini told the newspaper, adding he was worried about ensuring that the sophisticated, heat-seeking weapons do not fall into "terrorist" hands.

The Post quoted a source familiar with the Stinger training programme as saying the initial procedures for assuring tight control of the weapons are no longer being followed as stringently.

The U.S. government has refused to officially confirm or deny reports that it is sending Stingers to the rebels fighting Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government.

Israel reviews \$250m plan to settle 10,000 Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet on Sunday discussed a possible influx of Jews from the Soviet Union and was presented with a report estimating it may cost \$220 million to settle 10,000 newcomers to Israel, officials said.

Yaacov Tsur, minister of immigration and absorption, told reporters after the three-hour cabinet session the cost estimate was part of a master plan being devised to accommodate Soviet Jews.

"I think we can see very important changes in Russia, and its relationship towards Israel and the Jewish question," Mr. Tsur told reporters.

"(Large-scale) immigration is not yet a fact, but on the other hand, we have to prepare ourselves."

A cabinet communique said the cabinet would continue its discussion on preparations for the absorption of Soviet immigrants after further study. No details were given of the debate.

The 25-member cabinet was united on the need to make preparations, Mr. Tsur said, but was divided on whether to seek a broader dialogue with the Soviet Union.

Libyan raids damage half of aircraft captured by Chad

N'DJAMENA (Agencies) — Libya is mounting intensive bombing raids in northern Chad to try to destroy aircraft and other sophisticated military hardware abandoned by its defeated forces, a senior French military official said.

The official said daily raids on Libya's former airbase at Ouadi Doum had damaged about half of some 16 planes and helicopters captured when Chadian fighters overran the garrison in a lightning attack on March 22.

He said Soviet-made Tupolev-22 bombers had been making at least two 90-minute-long strikes a day for the past two weeks on the desert airstrip, formerly Libya's largest stronghold in northern Chad.

Fearing anti-aircraft fire, the planes usually flew at extremely high altitude but had scored several hits despite overall inaccuracy.

The French official said the bombings, unlike previous sporadic attacks on civilian areas, were aimed at destroying what he called a "full and dense supply of some of the best equipment in Africa."

French experts estimate Libya has lost up to \$1 billion worth of equipment since the Chadian army launched a drive to dislodge Libyan forces from the north of the central African nation some four months ago.

Huge quantities of material have been captured intact at

Ouadi Doum and other Libyan outposts lost in battle or abandoned without a fight over the last two weeks.

French intelligence experts have already visited the Ouadi Doum airfield to carry out a preliminary survey of captured weapons but have been unable to retrieve any material for closer study.

One captured aircraft damaged in the raids, the French official said, was a Soviet-made Mi-25 helicopter gunship.

The export version of the Mi-25, or "Hind" helicopter, used by Soviet troops against rebels in Afghanistan, has special electronic and optical systems which U.S. and French experts had been eager to examine.

"Part of the problem is that for Chadian soldiers, this hardware is of little interest. The first thing for them is to take tyres and batteries, it's natural," said the French official.

Other aircraft captured at the base, whose hard runway served as a staging point for Libyan operations in Chad, included 11 Czechoslovak-made L-39 light bombers and four small Italian-made Marchetti planes.

Early reports that MiG fighters and Sukhoi bombers had also been seized were untrue, the French official said.

He said the most important find — SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles with advanced radar guidance systems — had apparently so far escaped damage in the Libyan air raids.

The computerized guidance equipment, which includes sophisticated lasers, represents the latest in Soviet arms technology, he added.

"The FANT (National Armed Forces of Chad) must bring us this equipment before it is too late. They have to understand its importance to the West and therefore to them," he said.

President Hissene Habre celebrated Chad's military victory over Libya on Saturday and said he was prepared to open peace talks with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

"Chad wants peace. If the Libyan regime wants to open a dialogue with us in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, we are ready at any moment," Mr. Habre said at a joint news conference with visiting Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko.

"But we are not prepared to fold our arms and allow Col. Qadhafi to attack and occupy our territory, employ terrorism against us and try to surround us by subverting our neighbours," Mr. Mobutu flew from Kinshasa for a six-hour visit to join in ceremonies hailing the quick campaign that pushed the Libyans from most of Chad's northern desert following a five-year occupation. Troops from Zaire had fought with Chad in the past against the Libyans.

Mr. Habre and Mr. Mobutu were cheered by thousands of Chadians who danced in tribal robes and sang patriotic songs.

Mr. Habre warned that the victory was not complete. He said the Libyans still hold "large parts of Chad," including the northern slopes of the Tibesti Mountains and other northern regions.

The Chadian leader avoided replying to several questions on whether he intended to continue to campaign into the disputed Aouzou Strip adjoining the Libyan border north of the Tibesti. Following their string of successes, Chad forces now are poised on the edge of the disputed territory at several points. But they have made no attempt to penetrate it.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond has suggested submitting the Aouzou dispute to international arbitration by the international court at The Hague.

Mr. Habre declined to indicate whether he intended to attack the remote wilderness, although he has previously pledged to liberate "every inch of Chadian territory."

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U.S. navy to increase presence near Gulf

NEW YORK (R) — Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has ordered the U.S. navy to increase its presence near the Gulf in an effort to fulfill President Reagan's pledge to keep oil flowing to Europe and Japan, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper quoted Pentagon officials as saying the navy would keep the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk on station in the Arabian Sea and the rest of the Indian Ocean until May, three months longer than planned.

The navy would then have a carrier battle group of six to eight warships in the area at all times rather than part of the time, as happens now, the paper said.

It quoted the officials as saying the navy was also considering plans to deploy battle groups centred on recently refurbished battleships to the Indian Ocean to relieve pressure on the carriers.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims was quoted as saying: "There is an increased requirement to have carriers in the Indian Ocean."

The paper said that last month, U.S. intelligence sources said they had spotted land-based anti-air missiles of a Chinese design known in the West as the HY-2 near the Strait of Hormuz.

It said their purpose was seen as a signal Iran was preparing to continue and perhaps step up the Gulf shipping war against Iraq. U.S. carriers or battleships would sail out of range of those missiles, but within striking distance, the paper quoted officials as saying.

From several hundred kilometres at sea, carriers could launch aircraft bombing runs or missile strikes, and battleships could fire long-range missiles, the paper said.

Egyptians elect new parliament today

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptians vote for a new parliament Monday amid opposition charges that the government will cheat and controversy over an electoral alliance embracing fundamentalists from the officially outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

The election of the People's Assembly is a prelude to the anticipated nomination of President Hosni Mubarak to a second six-year term starting on Oct. 14.

Under the constitution, the president is chosen by the assembly and endorsed in a national referendum. The new assembly, like its predecessor that Mr. Mubarak disbanded in February, is widely expected to be dominated by his National Democratic Party (NDP) and is virtually certain to nominate him.

Mr. Mubarak, 58, dissolved parliament two years before the end of its five-year term because of opposition charges that the law under which it was elected was unconstitutional. The law was amended to change some of the contested provisions.

Almost 14.4 million of Egypt's 51 million people are eligible to vote at more than 21,000 polling stations nationwide. More than 3,600 candidates are running for 448 seats in 48 constituencies, with 400 seats reserved for parties and 48 for independents. Additionally, the president may appoint up to 10 members.

The month-long election campaign ended Saturday with leaders from the nation's five opposition parties alleging that the government rig the election in favour of the NDP, which held 390 seats in the previous chamber.

"We will resist every interference by the government and its attempt to rig the elections with all means at our disposal," a joint opposition statement said Thursday.

Foad Serageldin, leader of the right-of-centre New Wafd Party, which centred 58 seats in the disbanded house, told reporters: "I advise and warn the government that any attempt at rigging

will cause serious damage."

The charges stemmed from differences over procedures in party poll-watching. Opposition parties regarded poll-watching as a prime guarantee of a clean vote.

Government officials, from Mr. Mubarak on down, and state-owned media have denied that the government plans to meddle.

They maintain that opposition parties enjoy greater freedom now than at any time since Egypt's multiparty system was reinstated a decade ago.

"The best guarantee of democracy is greater democracy," Mr. Mubarak said in several recent speeches.

Both government and opposition parties were given equal time for campaigning on state radio and television, although opposition spokesmen often were followed by documentaries outlining purported gains under the National Democratic government.

Mr. Mubarak, who has said that as president he is above partisanship, made several campaign swings through the provinces that some said were thinly disguised NDP promotion tours.

A projection by the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram said the NDP would win more than 75 per cent of the assembly seats, with the so-called Islamic Alliance of two opposition parties and the Muslim Brotherhood getting 10 per cent. It predicted about 12 per cent for the New Wafd.

Makram Mohammad Ahmad, a Mubarak confidant and editor of the weekly state-owned Al-Mussawwar, wrote in this week's issue: "The NDP will be able to win a reasonable majority without any need for unacceptable electoral catering (to the NDP) or interference by the executive."

The governing party and some opposition groups denounced the alliance as a ruse to circumvent the law requiring a minimum of 8 per cent of the national vote for parliamentary representation.

The Brotherhood, which advocates implementation of Sharia, Islam's 1,400-year-old legal and

ethical code, was outlawed in 1954 after being implicated in an attempt to assassinate then-President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The ban stands, but the government has countenanced the Brotherhood in recent years because it has renounced violence and now preaches peaceful transition to an Islamic state.

The Brotherhood is considered a vote-getter due to its popularity among many devout Egyptian Muslims. It ran with the New Wafd in 1984 and won nine of that party's 38 seats.

This time, the Brotherhood is on the ticket of the Socialist Labour Party, which also has been joined by the smaller rightist Liberal Party.

The three groups fielded 397 candidates in 46 constituencies. Spokesman Gaber Rizk said the Brotherhood has 33 candidates on the alliance list and hopes 40 will win.

The electoral system combines proportional representation by party lists and individual contests for independent candidates, who are running for one seat in each constituency.

Al-Mussawwar editor Ahmad said of the alliance: "In spite of the law, and under the mantle of an illusory alliance, some people want for us a path other than that of democracy... they have come to tell us that Islam is the solution, as if we are not Muslims... They have come to impose themselves as custodians, as middlemen between people and God."

The tiny opposition Umma Party, which also wants Sharia, has sued the alliance, contending it violates the legal requirement of a single candidate list for a single party. The administrative court on Saturday postponed consideration of the case until April 14, eight days after the election.

Umma and the pro-Soviet National Unionist Progressive Party also are contesting the election. Political observers give them virtually no chance of getting the 8 per cent vote minimum to win seats.

Officials say U.S. selling computers to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. officials have said about \$70 million in American computers were sold to Iran through U.S. contractors over the last three years.

The officials said the computers do not have military significance and involve elementary technology. "My kid has more sophisticated stuff in his room," said an official, who demanded anonymity.

The contracts were approved

by the Commerce Department. The Pentagon tried to prevent the computer sales to Iran, but was overruled, the official said.

The State Department, meanwhile, rejected reports that U.S. weapons were still being sold to Tehran. The disclosure last November that there had been seven secret shipments and some of the profits from the sales were diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels rocked the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Responding to reports of recent sales, spokeswoman Sandra McCarthy said "we categorically deny that the United States is selling and/or sending any weapons to Iran."

Ms. McCarthy said U.S. policy was to discourage arms transfers to Iran by other countries.

"Further, the United States is not doing anything in connection with the government of Iran which is not consistent with U.S. laws or trade policy," she said.

Peres starts visit to Spain

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left Sunday for Spain saying he would try to enlist support for an international Middle East peace conference in spite of opposition within his own government.

"I hope he doesn't succeed," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose rightist Likud Bloc supports only direct talks with Arab states.

Mr. Peres, the Labour Party leader, told reporters at Tel Aviv airport that he viewed an international conference only as an opening gambit to direct talks.

He left for Madrid on a three-day official visit.

"We must distinguish between the dispute in Israel, over whether we need an international framework, and the dispute abroad over another subject altogether — and that is the character of the international conference," Mr. Peres said.

"The problem, I repeat, is not the international conference. The problem is the peace process. The prime minister, all members of the government, must relate to the peace process. Do they want it? Are there other alternatives?" he said.

European Community foreign ministers are reviewing the idea at an informal closed-door meeting in Belgium.

Gulf experts discuss anti-pollution measures

DUBAI (R) — Experts from eight Gulf countries including Kuwait and Iraq began a three-day meeting Sunday to discuss ways to fight oil and other types of pollution in the waterway.

Technical and legal experts of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) will discuss a draft protocol regulating exploration and exploitation of the seabed and continental shelf, officials said.

In an opening speech, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Health Minister Hamed Abdul Rahman Al Madfa' called for Gulf cooperation.

"We must find a correct ba-

lance between the use of modern technology and the need of states to protect their marine environment from oil and other types of pollution," he said.

Conference coordinator Badria Al Awadi of Kuwait praised the "positive attitude" of Gulf authorities which she said was facilitating its work.

ROPME groups the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — plus Iran and Iraq, the eight states bordering the Gulf through which about 10 per cent of the world's oil passes.

Delegates said the draft protocol would regulate the drilling, production, loading and trans-

portation of oil and gas to prevent pollution. It also specifies steps to combat pollution emergencies.

ROPME played a role in capping wells in Iran's Nowroz offshore oilfield in 1983 when they were damaged by Iraqi air attacks, creating a giant oil slick. Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

Mr. Awadi said the meeting would discuss recommendations on the draft made during the experts' last meeting in Kuwait in February 1986.

If passed, the draft goes for final approval to the ROPME ministerial council, composed of ministers from the eight states concerned with environmental affairs.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Cartoons and children's programme 16:30 World of Strange Powers 18:00 Arabic Series 18:30 Local debate 19:30 Local Programme on the Armed Forces 19:50 Programme Review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Message from Oman 20:40 Arabic Series 21:00 Faces and Events (Arabic) 21:15 Tomorrow's Programmes 21:30 News Summary in Arabic 21:40 News Summary in Arabic 21:50 Close down PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Felicien Greveche 19:00 News in French 19:15 Sport magazine (French) 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Magazine Zero One 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Academy Award 22:00 News in English 22:30 Out on a Limb RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & parlie on 9560 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 News Summary 10:00 News Summary 10:55 Just a Minute 11:00 Follow the Wing 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Spectrum 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session Cont'd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Comedy 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumental 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 My Word 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Sports Roundup 18:30 News Desk 19:00 News Desk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:45 Evening Show Cont'd.		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An art exhibition by 17 contemporary Arab artists at the Petra Bank Art Gallery — West Sqa' Street (until April 9) * Wild and cultivated flowers of Jordan in 60 pictures by Mrs. Rita Ghail are on display at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan International (until April 9) * An exhibition of photographs from North Korea at the University of Jordan. LECTURE * Well-known British climber Doug Scott will deliver a lecture with slides on climbing mountains at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council. VIDEO Le ried d'Alman' at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre — Tel. 6610257 American Centre 644371 American Centre library 641520 British Council 631478 French Cultural Centre 637089 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 642023 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181/6 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 662521 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 845355 MUSEUMS *Children's Heritage and Science Museum "Fazl and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624390. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terzian Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, next every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 771351. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): guests at Southern Baptist School in Shamsieh, Tel. 675354. Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. M. Sami), Tel. 811225. QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (00) 622005, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 16:00 Agaba (JF) 16:20 Cairo (RU) 16:30 Damascus (SD) 16:40 Jeddah (RU) 16:50 London (RU) 17:00 Kuwait (KU) 17:10 Baghdad (RU) 17:20 Bahrain (BF) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 08:00 Cairo, London (BA) 08:20 Cairo (MS) 11:10 Frankfurt (LH) 12:30 Bucharest (RO) 15:20 Kuwait (KU) 16:20 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 16:40 Bahrain (BF)		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 08:00 Cairo, London (BA) 08:20 Cairo (MS) 11:10 Frankfurt (LH) 12:30 Bucharest (RO) 15:20 Kuwait (KU) 16:20 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 16:40 Bahrain (BF) PRAYER TIMES 06:45 Fajr 06:55 (Sunrise) Dhuhr 12:00 Asr 16:12 'Asr 16:20 Maghreb 16:40 'Isa MONEY EXCHANGE Sunday rates Local selling rates in Jif Belgian franc 86.4 / 88.8 Dutch guilder 163 / 164.4 French franc 55.1 / 55.6 Italian lire 25.7 / 26.1 Japanese yen (for 100) 228.4 / 230.9 Swedish crown 52.8 / 53.2 Swiss franc 220.3 / 222.1 U.K. sterling pound 536.7 / 544.4 U.S. dollar 334.2 / 336.7 W. German mark 183.3 / 185.2 OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 08:00 Cairo (MS) 10:20 Sam's (LO) 12:00 Bucharest (RO) 14:30 Kuwait (KU) 16:20 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 16:40 Bahrain, Lannaca (GF)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Jordan Civil Defence 771293, 273131 Civil Defence Irbid 771293, 273131 Civil Defence Oweishim 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman dynamite house 639441 First aid 639441 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622005 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963001 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771258/9 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)5330060 GENERAL Jordan Television 77111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Othman Al Hajj Ali 741259 Dr. Joseph Ezzah 770560 Salem Pharmacy 636730 Nezoukhi Pharmacy 723672 Sahel pharmacy 668056 Khalid pharmacy 778657 First pharmacy 661912 Hussein pharmacy 845378 Al Fawziya pharmacy 787336 TAXIS Khalid taxi 63775 Jerusalem taxi 639635 Hebron taxi 776100 Rasana taxi 892435 Mid'ed taxi 892435 Al Salah taxi 773093 Siyala taxi 646319 Kurdi taxi 847572 DRUGS Dr. Abdul Karim Al Abwa (-) Halabi pharmacy (-) Al Sharrar pharmacy (-) ZARQA: Dr. Yabis Al Tawit 961200 Shatha pharmacy (-)	
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz 05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 05:30 News 05:30 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:40 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Music USA 18:30 Special English News Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:30 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 21:45 News & Editorial 22:15 Music USA 22:30 News 22:10 Report		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jif per kg. Apple (Lahesha & Turkish) 150 / 100 Apple (French) 150 / 100 Banana 320 / 270 Banana (Mukhammad) 270 / 220 Beans 450 / 380 Broad beans 130 / 100 Butter 100 / 70 Cabbage 100 / 70 Carrot (yellow) 100 / 70 Cauliflower 200 / 150 Cucumber 160 / 100 Eggplant (green) 140 / 100 Eggplant (large) 200 / 150 Garlic (green) 200 / 150 Grapefruit 150 / 100 Lemon 150 / 100 Mango 150 / 100 Onion (dry) 220 / 170 Onion (green) 180 / 120 Orange 150 / 100 Orange (Shamroun) 200 / 160 Potato 270 / 220 Pepper (red) 450 / 380 Pepper (sweet) 250 / 220 Potato 150 / 100 Radish 90 / 60 Spinach 150 / 100 Tomatoes 150 / 100					

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dudin, Fayeze meet with Swedish envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Mrawan Dudin and Swedish Ambassador in Amman Lars Lonnback Sunday reviewed the activities of Swedish charitable societies in the occupied Arab territories. They also discussed the possibilities of these societies contributing to a number of projects included in the development plan for the occupied Arab territories, especially in the health and social fields. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayeze also received Mr. Lonnback on Sunday to discuss existing relations between Jordan and Sweden.

Kuwaiti delegation due here today

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the prime minister's office in Kuwait will arrive here on Monday for a three-day visit to Jordan. The delegation, which is led by Mr. Khaled Ahmad Al Hamad, will familiarise themselves with Jordan's administration systems, especially those employed at the prime minister's office. The delegation will meet with senior Jordanian officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Charity marchers arrive at Abiad mine

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth day of the charity march across Jordan began Sunday from a car park in Swagga where Vicken Dakessian and Ali Pharaon had spent the night. By 11 a.m. they had reached Qatranah bridge and were joined by students from the University of Mu'ta, the head of the Karak police and other members of the police force. Six kilometres later engineers and employees from the Abiad phosphate mines joined in and walked with Vicken and Ali to Sultanah. By 7:00 that evening another 47 kilometres were covered.

CAEU committee to convene Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) financial and monetary committee will hold a meeting here on Wednesday at the CAEU headquarters. The two-day meetings will discuss a number of topics related to Arab monetary coordination and integration, besides a number of studies on Arab tax systems, legislations and means of promoting inter-Arab trade exchange. Delegates from member countries and specialised Arab organisations will take part in these meetings.

Iraqi film festival to open April 27

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Khatib will open an Iraqi film festival here on April 27. The event, organised by the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, marks the 50th birthday of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The event will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre and includes a film featuring the successes achieved by the Iraqi armed forces on land, sea and in the air in addition to documentaries on Iraq, its tourist and cultural centres as well as development projects carried out during the on-going war with Iran.

Delegation returns from Arab veterinarians meeting in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordanian Veterinarians Association has returned to Amman after taking part in the 18th Arab veterinary meeting which concluded recently in Cairo. Dr. Ghassoub Al Asari, director of animal production and health at the Ministry of Agriculture, who led the delegation said the meeting recommended that technical cooperation among various Arab veterinary institutes should be strengthened and developed and that veterinary medicine should be registered and controlled through close coordination among Arab veterinary authorities.

Danish team explores trade, joint venture possibilities with Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Denmark is seeking ways and means of boosting cooperation with Jordan by setting up joint ventures and increasing the volume of bilateral trade which is currently in Copenhagen's favour, Danish Ambassador to Jordan Poul Sondergaard said Sunday.

Mr. Sondergaard, who is heading a delegation representing various Danish private enterprises, said that his country was keen to strike a balance in volume of trade between the two countries, which is in the region of \$30 million annually. Potential Jordanian exports to Denmark could be a range of various agricultural produce which does not grow in Denmark. Mr. Sondergaard told a press conference following talks with president of the Chamber of Industry Issam Bdeir. Deputy President of the Jordan Chamber of Commerce Adnan Darwazeh attended the talks.

The Damascus-based Danish ambassador said that the Jordanian side expressed willingness to bolster trade ties between the two countries as well as cooperation in the energy field.

Denmark could provide Jordan

with technical expertise regarding the introduction of windmills as a substitute for conventional energy sources, he said, adding that his country has made strides in terms of developing wind power to generate electricity.

On setting up joint ventures, Mr. Sondergaard said that a semi-governmental industrial fund for developing countries would be instrumental in realising agro-industrial ventures in either of the two countries. The fund, he said, would contribute 1/3 of the project cost whereas Jordanian and Danish entrepreneurs would equally contribute the remaining 2/3 of the cost. Once the joint venture, which would also envisage export outlets in neighbouring countries, has been well-established the fund sells its stake in the project to the two partners, he explained.

The ambassador said it was premature to identify areas for possible cooperation but noted that fruit processing, agricultural industries and other related fields would figure high in any prospective projects.

He said that Mr. Bdeir and the president of the Chamber of Commerce would visit Denmark in September to further negotiate prospects for initiating joint ventures.

Scholars attend symposium on financial administration in the Islamic era

IRBID (Petra) — A four-day symposium on financial administration in the Islamic era opened at Yarmouk University on Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat deputised for Prince Hassan and delivered the Crown Prince's address to the audience which grouped Islamic scholars and researchers in Islamic affairs.

In his address, Prince Hassan emphasised the need for solidarity among Arab and Islamic countries in the face of common challenges, especially in economic affairs. The speech also said that such cooperation and coordination could be a means of overcoming the present economic difficulties in Arab and Islamic countries.

Cooperation among these countries in financial and economic fields and also in scientific research has become an urgent

necessity to ensure that the development process can go ahead unhindered, Prince Hassan said.

New economic order

He said: "We are living through an era that is increasingly focusing attention on Arab and Islamic thinking, especially in economic affairs and, therefore, our attention should be directed towards the search for a new economic order that can offer a greater measure of justice for all."

"We are indeed in need of a economic thinking to help us fulfil our aspirations and, for this reason, we rely more and more on our intellectuals and scholars to find a common ground for future action," Prince Hassan's speech continued.

This symposium, the Crown Prince said, is one more step on the path of unifying Arab and Islamic stands and pooling their

resources. He stressed that unless light is focused on economic and financial life in the Islamic era, it will continue to be shrouded by obscurity and unless financial and economic administration in the Islamic periods is fully analysed it would not be grasped in its right perspective.

Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan, who later addressed the audience, said that the symposium was in line with the university's programmes of encouraging scientific research work.

The symposium will focus attention on Islamic thinking and on finding solutions for the monetary and economic problems in today's world, Dr. Hamdan added.

Two other speakers who addressed the meeting were Dr. Abdul Qader Al Riba'i, the director of the Islamic Studies Centre at the university, and Dr. Munther Qahf from the Islamic Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

East German minister arrives for talks on cultural ties

AMMAN (Petra) — East German Minister of Higher Education Hans-Joachim Baume arrived in Amman Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan and talks with the Jordanian counterpart Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad.

Professor Baume said in an arrival statement that his talks with Dr. Assad will follow up on those started last year during the latter's visit to East Germany. Both countries are interested in promoting bilateral cooperation in political, economic and scientific fields and the talks are bound to help achieve that goal, the minister said. He added that Jordan and East Germany hold similar views on world peace and easing tension in all parts of the world. East Germany and Jordan have recently developed their relations and both countries hold similar positions with regard to the Middle East question, Prof. Baume noted.

There are great opportunities for promoting bilateral cooperation and the topics to be discussed with Jordanian officials will largely cover the prospects of expanding the present cultural cooperation agreement signed by the two countries.

Apart from meeting Dr. Assad, the East German minister will tour educational institutions and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Prof. Baume is accompanied by a two-member delegation.

Committee reviews studies on potential use of land in Azraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Sunday met with a committee entrusted by the government to study prospects for exploiting lands in Al Azraq region for agricultural purposes. A report prepared by the director of the Land and Survey Department and second on the underground water potentials in the area were read out during the meeting.

The minister said that a technical committee grouping engineers should be set up to conduct a field study on the lands and their potential.

The formation of the committee was contained in a Cabinet decision on March 4 and is within the government's efforts to increase food production and exploit semi-desert regions in the

Kingdom. The committee groups representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Water Authority of Jordan and the Department of Land and Survey.

According to the Cabinet statement, the committee will explore means of growing more cereals and animal fodder in the Azraq region. It said the decision was taken in view of the success of a similar experiment conducted in the south and south eastern areas of the country, particularly at Qa' Al Disi and Suwayh which have been utilised for cereal production by a number of local firms.

The committee has been instructed by the government to submit recommendations and proposals on the Azraq project within two months so that action can be taken.

Tourism Ministry publishes book on mountaineering in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism has published a new book in English about the mountains of Petra and Wadi Rum, two historical sites in the southern region of Jordan. The ministry contracted British mountaineer Tony Howard to write the 140-page book. Mr. Howard spent a considerable time in this area over the last year which helped him to get first-hand information about the two sites.

The book explains in detail the mountains of Petra and Wadi Rum and their natural features, beauty and climate.

In his book, Mr. Howard says that these mountains are among the best in the world for the sport of mountaineering. During the past two years the Petra and

Wadi Rum areas have become attraction points for mountain climbers from various parts of the world, according to a ministry statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In a related development and in line with its efforts to promote Petra and Wadi Rum to world tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has invited well-known British climber Doug Scott to Jordan. Mr. Scott arrived here Sunday and will climb mountains in Wadi Rum during his stay in Jordan. Today Mr. Scott will deliver an illustrated lecture on mountain climbing at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council. On Sept. 24, 1975, Doug Scott made the first ever ascent of Mount Everest by the South West face with Doug Haston.

European parliamentarians stress need for urgent measures to ease plight of Palestinians

Delegation winds up fact-finding tour with call for steps to accelerate economic, relief efforts in occupied territories

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — European parliamentarians wound up a several day visit to Jordan and the occupied Arab territories on Sunday, stressing the need for an urgent solution to alleviate the plight of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

"We didn't know what it was like to be under military occupation until we saw it," Mr. Armand De Decker, a Liberal deputy from Belgium said. "I think it would be criminal to sit and do nothing until the necessary political solution is found."

Mr. De Decker is part of a 15-member delegation of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC) on a fact-finding tour which took them to Jordan, the occupied West Bank and Gaza at the invitation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

During their tour, the delegation met with several Palestinian political activists in the occupied territories who briefed them on the latest developments and their views vis-a-vis peace efforts. They were also received by Foreign Minister Marwan Masri, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Mrawan Dudin and other ministry officials.

Mr. Robert Tazelaar, a Socialist from the Netherlands said that Palestinians he met during the tour were less pessimistic about peace prospects than last year. He was apparently referring to ongoing efforts towards convening an international Middle East peace conference to negotiate a settlement to the Palestine problem.

On his impressions of the Israeli military occupation and its effects on the Palestinians' day-to-day living, Mr. Michael Knowles, a member of the United Kingdom's Conservative party, said he had never witnessed anything similar. "It is military occupation in its starkest point," he said. "There is hopelessness and more hopelessness."

'Desperation' in Gaza

Describing the situation in Gaza as "the most desperate," the deputies said that Gazans seeking work in Israel needed eight hours just to get to the city centre in the hope of finding work there. "They would have to start their day at 2 a.m.," Mr. De Decker, who had been taking photographs during his tour of refugee camps, said.

PAEAC Deputy Secretary General Hans Peter Kotthaus of the Federal Republic of Germany told the Jordan Times that Israeli practices in the occupied territories were "very dangerous for peace, and that the Jewish state was 'making big mistakes'."

Speaking in a group interview with the Jordan Times, the parliamentarians stressed the need to accelerate and improve economic relief efforts for Palestinian refugees along with the ongoing political process to solve their problem.

Mr. De Decker pointed out that the situation in the occupied territories could not tolerate postponement until a political solution — which he said could take years — is reached.

Mr. Tazelaar said that Palestinian farmers were confronted by several export constraints by the Israeli authorities in contradiction to European Community resolutions to give the occupied territories the same export facilities to Europe as all other Mediterranean countries.

Furthermore, he added, Israeli measures were bringing up the production cost for Palestinian farmers' products to the point that they are much less competitive with Israeli products.

Mr. Tazelaar stressed the need for his association to reassert the agreement on exports from the occupied territories to the European Community.

Upon their return to their respective countries, the parliamentarians said they would be discussing their observations with their countries' foreign ministers regarding increasing contributions to UNRWA as well as reporting on political developments.

His Majesty King Hussein is planning a visit to Brussels this week for crucial talks on prospects for convening an international conference. Belgium is currently the chairman of the European Community.

The deputies said that the European Community would be trying to win concrete decisions towards alleviating the suffering of Palestinians. However, they said it was not advisable to urge for sanctions against Israel.

"It is not a good idea to talk about sanctions while everybody is talking about an international conference," Mr. Knowles said, "we have to be positive rather than threatening Israel."

He expressed hope that Jordan would succeed in its efforts to move the Americans closer to the European position of supporting the proposed conference.

Mr. Tazelaar said that in his parliament, "there would be retaliatory measures" against Israel if it continued to block EC resolutions vis-a-vis the occupied territories.

The PAEAC, which groups nearly 650 parliamentarians from Europe, was established in 1974 to improve European cooperation with the Arab World.

Special panel set up to guide conversion of TCC

AMMAN (Al Ra'i) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) board of directors has set up a special committee to follow up the transformation of the TCC into a public company to be called the Jordanian Telecommunications Public Shareholding Company, Minister of Communications Muheddin Al Husseini, who is also chairman of the TCC board, said Sunday.

Mr. Husseini said that the committee would embark on its mission in the coming week and study means of setting the new company.

The committee which is chaired by the minister himself, includes Dr. Jawad Al Anani, president of the Royal Scientific Society, Mr. Mohammad Shabeh Ismail, director general of the TCC, and Ali Gharabeb, director general of the General Budget Department.

The TCC has held a monopoly over the Kingdom's telecommunications services since 1971.

King arrives in the Hague after talks in Rabat

(Continued from page 1)

conflict should be based on international principles and laws. Jordan and Morocco appreciate the efforts of the fifth Islamic summit held in Kuwait in January as well as endeavours of the Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to end the Gulf war, the communiqué said.

The communiqué said Jordan and Morocco also stressed "the urgent need to convene an Arab summit conference to discuss the Arab situation and take proper and effective action that can lead to the preservation and restoration of the Palestinian and Arab

rights." It paid tribute to efforts by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for his endeavours to end inter-Arab differences and convene an Arab summit conference.

The communiqué said King Hussein and King Hassan voiced satisfaction with the state of relations between Jordan and Morocco and directed officials of their respective countries to work towards further strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation.

Talks between the two leaders dealt with Arab affairs, the Gulf war and efforts for peace in the Middle East, the communiqué

said. The King is expected to meet Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans in Brussels later Monday, and will then fly to London.

The King's arrival in the Hague coincided with a private meeting in Brussels of European Community (EC) foreign ministers. Mr. Tindemans, current president of the EC Council of Ministers, said he would represent the community on a visit later this month to Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel to gain support for a Middle East peace conference.

Christian Dior's International Beauty Expert

NADIA THOUL FAQAR SABRI

who specialises in scent and cosmetics, is pleased to welcome you and to present up-to-date make-up colours and lines for the 1987 Spring and Summer seasons and also to offer you free advice on the care of your skin at the following stores and pharmacies:

Tuesday	7/4/1987	4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Abu Shakra Trading Centre Bayader Wadi Eszer, Al Bayer Bldg. Opposite Arab Bank, Tel: 817173
Wednesday	8/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Abu Shakra Trading Centre Bayader Wadi Eszer, Al Bayer Bldg. Opposite Arab Bank, Tel: 817173
Thursday	9/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Al Khouli Pharmacy 6th Circle Tel: 812467
Saturday	11/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Yacoub Pharmacy 3rd Circle, Tel: 644945
Sunday	12/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Al Dajani Pharmacy Shmeisani, Tel: 669620
Monday	13/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Wisam Pharmacy 8th Circle, Tel: 816911
Tuesday	14/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Al Samah Exhibition for Perfumes Housing Bank Complex, Tel: 675508
Wednesday	15/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Samir Pharmacy Jabal Al Hussein, Tel: 661898
Thursday	16/4/1987	9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Abu Shakra Stores 3rd Circle, Al Bourj Bldg. Tel: 659035

Abu Shakra Trading Centre
Bayader Wadi Eszer, Al Bayer Bldg.
Opposite Arab Bank Bldg.
Tel: 817173

6th Circle Bayader Wadi Eszer Main Str

Abu Shakra Trading Centre

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In fairness to all

THE Voice of America (VOA) has been quite vocal lately on the subject of human rights. Drawing from a recently issued U.S. State Department report on human rights, VOA has broadcast a number of editorials on human rights abuses in various regions of the world.

A VOA editorial on the Middle East, aired last week, singles out five nations for reproach — Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and South Yemen. It charges that "the rights to free speech, assembly or religion, and the rights of citizens to change or criticize their government are almost completely denied in those five nations." After describing the torture and execution awaiting those who try to exercise human rights in these countries, the editorial concludes that "it is essential that the rest of the world be aware of human rights abuses in these Middle Eastern countries — and in all other countries where they occur."

We can only applaud the uncovering of human rights abuses in countries where they occur. But, might we note a conspicuous omission to the Middle Eastern list? It seems that Israel is not among those guilty of human rights abuses; not according to the VOA at any rate. But perhaps this is merely an oversight. Compared to the supposedly gross violations of these other countries, what is Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza? Nothing much, judging from the VOA editorial, of course.

VOA surely knows that Israel denies some basic human rights to the Palestinian people. The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza cannot express their opinions freely or assemble without Israeli police action. They are certainly not free to criticize their occupier's government, and, of course, they do not have a government of their own to criticize. And the reports of arrests, detentions without trial, torture, and even killings by Israeli authorities and troops are numerous.

We wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights in our region as indeed elsewhere in the world. But we think every country should come under scrutiny, with no exceptions. Unfortunately, the mouthpiece of the American government has been quite selective in its opinion on human rights in the Middle East. This, we think, is an example of gross bias. Maybe the VOA and the American government should take off their moral blinders where Israeli oppression is concerned.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Joint Arab stand needed

THE Americans and the Israelis regard the proposed international conference only as a means for arriving at direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. The Arabs for their part want the coming conference to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions which clearly state that the aggressors should not keep occupied land, and that the Palestinians must have their rights in their homelands. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has come up with a new proposal: That the international conference should serve as a beginning step to be followed by direct negotiations and that the Arabs and Israel should be offered help later if any obstacles crop up in their bilateral negotiations. Once the negotiations between the two sides achieve success, then the international community would carry out a "Marshall plan" style programme to stimulate the economic life of the Middle East region. In view of this situation and the divergent views about the proposed conference, the Arabs ought to come together and reach agreement on a concept of the conference and its objectives. They must agree on one formula and they ought to insist on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions which call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. The Arabs must insist that a genuine international role should be played for achieving this goal and that the international forum is the only means of carrying out the Security Council resolutions. For this reason, we call for an Arab summit meeting that can reach unanimous agreement on a joint Arab stand at the proposed conference.

Al Dustour: King rallies common stand

KING Hussein's working visit to Morocco constitutes a prelude to his European tour where the King will visit three countries seeking more support for the proposed international conference on the Middle East. The King had earlier made a tour of Arab capitals during which he urged Arab leaders to reach consensus on a formula to be taken up by the proposed conference. The closer the Arabs move towards this conference the stronger their unity should be. They ought to find a common ground and agree on a unified stand with which to present to the conference. The Arabs would not find their task at the proposed conference an easy matter and they have to realise how serious the Middle East question is, and also the nature of their common enemy, and must therefore prepare their homework very well. The Arab leaders should realise that their common enemy continues to receive support from a superpower and is continuing a drive to foil Arab attempts to regain their usurped lands. King Hussein's tour of Arab states on the eve of his visits to Europe aimed at regaining Arab solidarity and unifying Arab countries' stands, and these are pre-requisites for the common effort designed to recover the lost homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab: King rallies supports for peace

KING Hussein has embarked on a tour of four nations with the intention of winning further support for the idea of convening an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue. The Egyptian and Syrian newspapers are full of talk about the proposed conference while the European Economic Community foreign ministers hold meetings in Brussels to discuss this issue. Above all the Soviet Union has already voiced its full backing for such international parity to achieve peace in our region. It seems that the eyes of the international community are now turned towards such a conference which will be held under United Nations auspices to help implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. As a result, observers believe that such a conference is bound to be held before autumn, and then our Arab region can enjoy peace and stability. It is true that the support of foreign nations is essential for such a conference, but an all out Arab effort is needed to back the Jordanian offensive, and a unified stand on the part of the Arab countries is required if the conference is to achieve its objectives.

Passports for stateless Arabs is a national duty

By Waleed Sa'di

THE policy of the Government of Jordan of granting passports to the inhabitants of Gaza Strip is a blessing for the Gazans and an honourable nationalist act by Jordan. No one on earth knows better and appreciates more the value and importance of having a Jordanian passport than the Gazans themselves. Throughout the past forty odd years, the Gazans suffered the most from statelessness and the denial of recognition by the international community. The state of Palestine was pushed to disintegration by the same international community and on its ashes the world helped the Jews to establish their Jewish state.

In the aftermath of this unprecedented infamous transformation of one country into another by treachery and aggression, the brethren of the Gazans in the other parts of Palestine had freely opted for and acquired the Jordanian citizenship and had been enjoying all the rights and privileges pertaining to that Arab citizenship. But the Gazans were literally left behind and cut off from the mainstream of their compatriots and with their international status remaining in limbo and their rights to free movement considerably curtailed. Egypt had offered them then the best that they could under the prevailing circumstances which was the Egyptian laissez-passez. But the Egyptian documents were of limited practical use and thus the suffering of the Gazans continued till a breakthrough was arrived at by which the Government of Jordan has embarked on a new and fresh national policy of giving passports to stateless Palestinians to make their lives easier and their mobility in search of opportunities much more enhanced.

There is no doubt that granting the Gazans Jordanian passports albeit of restricted scope, is a momentous act of true Arab nationalism. And let there be no doubt about it, nothing in the Jordanian act would infringe on the political rights and aspirations

of the Gazans as Palestinians. This new policy does not in the least compromise the quest of the Palestinians for identity and recognition. Even the Palestinians who had acquired foreign passports from various non-Arab states had never felt that they had renounced their Palestinian nationalism or that their sense of belonging to Palestine undermined. The passports given to the Gazans are nothing more and nothing less than a pass to and from ports whether inland or at sea. It is indeed the peak of Arab national generosity and comradeship to bestow upon another stateless Arab people the privilege of carrying its passport to aid and protect their individual survivability and to assure their mobility and durability.

Perhaps this Jordanian policy of granting Gazans Jordanian passports is an affirmation to the world at large that the Jordanians and Palestinians are sisters and brothers come what may rain or shine. Their separate identities are like the two sides of the same coin irrevocably connected and attached for all times. The history of the region has dictated that they share the same fate and destiny. Hopefully a day will come when all Arabs will carry one Arab passport, but till that aspired for day arrives, no Arab should be left without a passport. In fact I dare submit that the Arab League Charter should be so amended as to make it mandatory on the Arab states to grant stateless Arabs passports from one Arab country or another. Jordan has been more forth-coming in this direction and all of us who truly care about our Palestinian brothers and sisters should be more supportive of this Jordanian policy. After all, since most Arab countries tend now to tolerate dual nationality and allow the carrying of two passports, one would expect at least those Arab countries to be likewise tolerant towards granting the stateless

Palestinians the convenience of carrying an Arab passport or another till the day arrives when the Palestinians can carry their own passports.

I think there is consensus among all men of good will that mobility increases the strength and potency of the Palestinian people. Mobility means access to education and economic opportunities and in the final analysis such added opportunities could be translated to prowess and effectiveness in the overall struggle for identity and acceptance. In contemporary times when more and more restrictions are being imposed on Arab travellers, a passport becomes a must and a basic tool for advancement and progress. In this vein, helping our people in the Gaza Strip is a most commendable policy and there is no better way to do so under the circumstances than by making their lives better by making their mobility easier.

All that is left in this commendable Jordanian policy towards the residents of the Gaza Strip is to institutionalise the procedure for obtaining passports. There appears to be no definite or fixed applicable rules to regulate this matter and one suspects that the Gazans are still awaiting a coherent legislation to guide them in their application for Jordanian passports. What needs to be well articulated in this context is the issue of what to do with the residents of Gaza Strip en masse. Ad hoc solutions offered to some of the Gazans is neither sufficient nor fair to the rest of the Gazans. What is needed is the formulation of a general policy towards the Gazans in general and then to proceed to articulate some legal guidelines for all concerned to pursue and apply. In the final analysis there must be a coordinated effort by both Jordan, and the PLO to review this whole issue of the Gazans and how to make their lot better.

Europeans showing doubt about their role in Western alliance

By Robert Burns
 The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Signs of movement toward a superpower accord on nuclear missiles in Europe have sparked renewed debate among the European NATO nations about their role in the U.S.-led alliance.

There is little serious talk of splitting the 38-year-old alliance. But there is a growing emphasis on strengthening Europe's voice on arms control, and on other issues that directly affect its security.

Many Europeans worry that their governments have no direct say in U.S.-Soviet negotiations on nuclear weapons, and that they have failed to present a common view on such issues to the U.S. government.

Some of Europe's leaders think that besides participating in NATO, they should talk about defence issues in an exclusively European forum. So far, though, they haven't decided how to do it without offending the United States, whose strategic nuclear force remains Europe's ultimate protector.

As a result, individual European leaders' contacts with the East Bloc nations generally lack the force of a collective European stance.

Prior to her recent visit to Moscow, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held talks with French and West German leaders. But it was never clear that she was speaking for all of Western Europe during what she called a "historic mission" to the Soviet Union.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Economic Com-

munity's executive office, recently proposed an extraordinary EEC summit to discuss implications of a proposed U.S.-Soviet accord to remove the bulk of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe.

On Feb. 28, the Soviets had dropped their insistence that removal of U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe be contingent on agreement in other major areas of arms control. Four days later, the United States tabled a draft treaty on withdrawal of those nuclear arsenals from Europe, although no final accord has been reached.

"Is Europe going to let its security be decided above its head?" Delors, a former French finance minister, said in calling for the first Common Market defence summit in the organisation's 30-year history.

Delors' idea appears to have died a quick death, mainly because the EEC has no explicit authority to deal with defence and security matters. But the timing of his proposal underscores a growing concern among many West Europeans about their security relationship with the United States.

The worry has been fuelled recently by talk of the United States withdrawing some or all of its 325,000 troops in Western Europe. There is no specific proposal in the U.S. Congress to reduce troop strength in Europe, nor is there any indication the administration of President Ronald Reagan would favour such a step.

But Western Europeans have noted an increase in public discussions of the idea, especially from opponents of such a move.

European security concerns also are heightened by a perception that the United States places more importance on its relations with Japan and other Pacific nations than with Europe.

The worries also appear linked to the emergence of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

His proposals for internal economic and cultural reforms have raised questions in Europe about whether a more modern Soviet Union would pose a greater or lesser threat to its neighbours.

Moreover, some European governments have been bothered by the implications of several recent U.S. actions, including last

year's bombing of Libya and the scrapping last November of the SALT II arms treaty. They also are concerned about talk in Washington of a possible early deployment of the Strategic Defence Initiative, a proposed space-based missile defence.

The most immediate concern, however, is the appearance of new progress toward a superpower agreement to eliminate Soviet SS-20 and U.S. Cruise and Pershing 2 nuclear missiles from European territory.

While NATO has publicly supported such a withdrawal since 1981, the Europeans now worry it could leave them vulnerable to a

superior Soviet force of shorter-range nuclear missiles, chemical weapons and conventional arms.

Among the European NATO members, only Britain and France have nuclear forces, and neither of those is explicitly dedicated to the common NATO defence.

The Europeans say they remain committed to NATO. But they seem less willing to presume that the United States will continue to take full account of their concerns in the years ahead.

Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said recently that last October's superpower summit in Reykjavik, Ice-

land, came close to changing the entire framework of European security. Europeans had no direct role in the summit.

"We Europeans were treated, and let ourselves be treated, like clients," Schmidt said. "Maybe we have behaved like clients for too long."

Schmidt said the two main Western military powers on the European continent — France and West Germany — should combine their conventional armed forces to give Europe a more independent role in East-West military affairs, without severing its ties to North America.

Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary, said in a speech March 16 that Europe should use the Western European Union — without U.S. participation — to coordinate its views on defence matters. The union is an alliance of seven European nations that was created in 1954 to oversee the rearmament of West Germany. It has been overshadowed by NATO and has played no significant role for more than 20 years.

"If we want our particular European concerns to be clearly perceived and taken into account in negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, then we must argue them out clearly among ourselves and come wherever possible to a common view," Howe said.

Foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union member countries are to meet in Luxembourg in late April to discuss, among other things, the possibility of revitalising the organisation as a forum for coordinating European views outside the NATO framework.



The Economist in Greek battle

By John Witherow

DID you know that the CIA was behind the plot to shoot Mrs. Gandhi; that the Berlin Wall was built to prevent the West invading East Germany; that the Soviet Union was invited into Afghanistan to restore stability; and that AIDS was an offshoot of Pentagon research?

A reader of Tass or Pravda would probably be familiar with these stories, but you could also have read them as you sipped an ouzo in what claims to be the world's oldest democracy.

These assertions, and many more, have appeared in the best-selling Greek newspaper, To Ethnos (The Nation), and over the past seven weeks they have been dissected within the confines of the High Court in London.

There, lawyers are arguing through the final stages of a long-running libel case. It centres on a claim by To Ethnos that it has been libelled by a British publication. The Economist Foreign Report, which alleged that the Greek paper was set up with money from the Soviet Union and was its mouthpiece.

The Economist, which publishes the subscription-only journal, is not trying to justify the specific allegations in the article, which was published in 1982. Instead it is sticking by its assertion that To Ethnos is a Soviet mouthpiece.

The reputation of both publications is at stake and the total legal costs of the case could run to more than £1m.

Those who believe, rightly or wrongly, that the Soviet Union has infiltrated the Western media think the case has given an important airing to their views. To Ethnos has described The Economist's allegations as a "scurrilous invention".

The court has been told that the publisher of the newspaper,

George Bobolas, is a "Greek patriot and fervent believer in liberty".

In its defence, Ethnos has produced 17 witnesses to say that it is a free and independent organ. If articles were anti-American in tone, it says, this was because they reflected Greece's national interests.

Melina Mercouri, the Greek minister of culture, has given evidence on behalf of To Ethnos. She told the court last week that she was there with the approval of the Greek prime minister, Andreas Papandreu.

In response, The Economist has produced dozens of articles from To Ethnos which, it alleges, take Moscow's line on world affairs. Last week a senior former KGB officer gave evidence for the defence, hidden behind white screens to prevent him being seen by the public.

Ilya Dzhirkvelov, who defected to the West seven years ago after working for the KGB, described the articles in To Ethnos as "more pro-Soviet than we find in the Soviet press".

He said that the KGB arranged for the publication of pro-Soviet material in Western papers such as The New York Times, The Washington Post and Le Monde.

"We worked very hard in the KGB," he said, "to co-opt foreign journalists who became our agents of influence. We paid them money and they published articles in our favour."

The defence has also called Lord Chalfont, the former Labour minister, who told the jury that he could name a handful of MPs in the Labour party who were "agents of influence" for the Soviet Union.

An additional twist has been added to the case because The Economist is counter-suing Ethnos for libel for alleging the magazine was influenced by the CIA — The Sunday Times.

Zimbabwe ends Smith's career

By Francis Mdlongwa
 Reuters

HARARE — Zimbabwe, gearing itself up to become a socialist one-party state, has suspended former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith from parliament for a year, effectively ending a political career of almost 40 years.

Smith, 67, led the white settlers of Britain's Rhodesian colony in revolt against the prospect of black rule, declaring unilateral independence in 1965 and defying the world for 15 years.

He was suspended by parliament on Thursday after an acrimonious debate over remarks he made in South Africa last month.

The World War II fighter pilot angered the leaders of Zimbabwe when he urged South African whites to rally behind their government to defeat economic sanctions aimed at ending their country's apartheid racial system.

For Zimbabwe, a leader of the Southern African front-line group spearheading opposition to apartheid, his remarks were the final insult from a man the government blames for the deaths of thousands of black rebels who fought white rule.

Smith appeared to throw in the political towel after he was suspended on a 38-10 vote. "I am happy to get out... Forty years (in politics) is enough," he told the Zimbabwean news agency.

The government dropped part of the expulsion motion calling for the speedy abolition of the 20 parliamentary seats reserved for the country's 100,000 white minority.

But it will be only a short reprieve. Justice Minister Eddison Zvobgo said later the seats would be abolished shortly after Zimbabwe's seventh independence anniversary on April 18.

Under the British-drafted constitution the government needs 70 votes in the 100-seat parliament to abolish the seats, a number it

should have no difficulty attaining with the help of the opposition PF-Zapu Party.

The ruling Zanu-PF and PF-Zapu, allies in the guerrilla war but bitter enemies after independence, are currently finalising talks to merge, heralding the creation of a one-party state.

Zanu-PF has 66 seats in parliament and PF-Zapu 14.

At the height of the seven-year guerrilla war against white rule in the 1970s, Smith vowed there would be no black rule in Zimbabwe, not even in a thousand years.

He was still defiant on Thursday when, taunted by government backbenchers, he denied he supported South Africa and accused the government of trying

to curb freedom of speech and thought.

He said he would challenge his suspension in court. But political analysts said that even if he won a court case the white seats would have been abolished by then, making the court ruling unenforceable.

Some whites welcomed Smith's departure as overdue.

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There is more to cork than just a loud pop

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Corks pop from champagne bottles every New Year's Eve — but where do they really come from?

From sponges at the bottom of the sea, many think. From gardens of petrified mosses and lichens, others believe. From factories that manufacture synthetics. From some mysterious, unknown place.

Cork has been called nature's best-kept secret. Most people don't know where it comes from or that it has hundreds of uses besides the familiar champagne and wine bottle stoppers. Cork gives the symphony conductor a secure grip on the baton, and it hurries toward space as the heat shield on the shuttle's rocket booster.

Taken from trees

"When people open a bottle of wine, they don't think the cork was once the outside of a tree," says Fernando Soares Carneiro, an economic affairs counselor of Portugal, the leading cork-producing country.

Cork is the outer bark of the cork oak, *Quercus suber*. This protective layer is usually 1 to 3 inches thick and can be peeled off without harming the tree. A cork oak is mature enough for stripping when it is 20 to 25 years old. Thereafter, its cork grows thick enough to be stripped about every nine years. The tree can live for about 150 years.

This extraordinary evergreen oak, whose velvety leaves resemble holly leaves without sharp points, is found in abundance only around the western Mediterranean — in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Cork forests on the Iberian Peninsula produce about 80 per cent of the world's annual supply of more than 200,000 tons. Most quality cork comes from Portugal's Alentejo region, which stretches south from Lisbon toward the Algarve coast.

Just after a harvest, the trees appear naked, their bare trunks a fiery red. Some people say the trees are blushing because they have lost their clothes.

Cork is still harvested by hand because most of these oaks grow crooked. The hatchet must strike the tree carefully; no new cork will grow if the vital inner layer of bark is damaged. Two cuts are made around the trunk, and two or more up and down. The spongey outer bark is peeled off in large, lumber-like slabs.

Cork is so versatile because it has densely packed cellular structure. There are 150 million to 200 million 14-sided cells in one cubic inch of natural cork. Half of cork's volume is air trapped within the cells, making it four times lighter than water.

Snaps back to shape

Cork is not only buoyant, but compressible. It can tolerate 14,000 pounds of pressure per cubic inch and expand to nearly

its original shape within 24 hours. Its cellular, rather than fibrous, nature makes it impermeable to liquids and gases.

Cork also insulates, is resistant to the effects of friction, is fire-retardant, and absorbs vibration and sound. And it is virtually indestructible. It does not deteriorate with age.

Natural cork's biggest job is sealing containers, from wine bottles to test tubes. About 6.5 billion wine-bottle corks are punched from bark each year. Mushroom-shaped champagne corks are pieced together.

Evidence of cork's vintage quality is a third-century wine bottle unearthed in France, still corked and filled with drinkable wine. Cork fine enough for bottle stoppers does not appear on trees until their third stripping, when they are about 40 to 45 years old.

Most other cork, as well as nearly all scrap cork, is ground up and combined with natural resins, rubber, plastics, or other synthetic binders to make hundreds of products. Cork becomes gaskets for automobile motors, inner soles for shoes, expansion-joint fillers for bridges, tunnels, nuclear plants, highways, and sidewalks, and lining shields for trucks transporting radioactive and toxic materials.

Cork can be found on the floors of Britain's Parliament and the U.S. Library of Congress and on the lobby walls of New York's Lincoln Centre. Cork is in the valve pads of saxophones and clarinets, the handles of fishing rods, and the cores of baseballs.

Defence secrets

Some of cork's newest uses are top secret. "It gets into Star Wars," says Arthur Dodge, president of Dodge Cork in Lancaster, Pa.

Despite its remarkable qualities, cork has been replaced with synthetics in a number of products, such as beer- and soft-drink-cap liners and the screw tops of inexpensive wines.

There's a shortage of cork worldwide; they had to switch to synthetics. There is not enough cork for major industries to bother with," says Jerome Manton, president of the Cork Institute of America. The cork crop has stayed at its World War II level.

Although most of cork's uses have been developed in the 20th century, its utility has been recognized at least since ancient Greek and Roman times. The Romans made cork floats for fishing nets, bungs for casks, swimming aids, and head coverings. Caesar's soldiers are said to have endured their long marches because of their cork-cushioned sandals. Nearly all the ancient uses for cork continue today.

Attempts to cultivate cork in other climates have met with almost universal failure. For example, Thomas Jefferson tried for 40 years to get acorns from French cork oaks to grow in South Carolina. There is no record that any survived. Since then, farmers who have tried elsewhere have not had much



A naked cork oak tree in Spain is stripped of most of its outer bark, which is dried, boiled, and fashioned into cork products. Stripping, still done with hatchets, does not harm the tree as long as the vital inner bark is not damaged. It takes about nine years for cork to grow thick enough to be stripped again.

better luck. Some cork trees have sprouted here and there, but they are in their native lands.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Postcard from the hereafter

WHILE reading one of the local Arabic newspapers I discovered, to my dismay, that the famous Italian writer Alberto Moravia had, according to the writer, passed away last month.

My surprise was enormous because only two days ago I received a postcard, signed by Moravia himself and dated the end of March and posted from New York.

It follows therefore that if we want to believe the distinguished columnist, whose article incidentally was on the occasion of national book week, the postcard was sent after Moravia's death. And, furthermore, all the lectures and meetings that Moravia held in the U.S. from mid March until last week must have been done by his ghost.

It seems that Alberto Moravia is not very lucky with us Jordanians. During his visit to Jordan a month ago — and he was very much alive then — an announcement in the local newspapers invited people to a lecture by Moravia hosted by the Jordanian Writers' Association. Moravia in fact had no knowledge that he was the guest of the Writers' Association and even less about the lecture, which he never delivered. More sad was the interview on JTV with Moravia. The interviewer asked the great writer to "present himself" to the Jordanian public, a phrase that characterizes most interviews by broadcasters and journalists in this country. He was then asked to give "his opinion" about his own writings. And finally he was asked: "Do you think that people like to read those (his) stories?"

Well, I think that it is not every day that a writer of the calibre of Moravia visits Jordan, so it would have been normal and fair to give him the press coverage and the attention that he rightly deserves. After all, he was not the guest of the Jordanian Government but he came on his own because he was curious about Jordan and of the Jordanian people.

Fortunately, it seems that Moravia did not feel hurt by the lack of knowledge about his work that he found in Amman. Back in Rome, he wrote three wonderful articles about Jordan in a leading Italian newspaper. So, now the least we can do is to keep him alive and to wish him a long life.

Report cites need to preserve earth's living species

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — The United States needs to strengthen its commitment to global conservation efforts to deal with the accelerating loss of the Earth's plant and animal species, according to a report by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA).

One of the main problems arises from deforestation in developing countries, the agency says. The new study, released March 31, said losses of biological diversity could mean that, at best, resources that otherwise might improve the quality of human life will not be available in future decades. At worst, it could mean a serious disruption of ecological processes upon which civilization depends.

Biological diversity refers to the Earth's myriad life forms and ecosystems, including genetic materials that form the molecular

basis of heredity.

About 1.7 million plant and animal species have been described by scientists. But estimates of the actual number of species in existence vary anywhere from five million to 30 million. The variety of life in the tropics is staggering. In a 10-hectare patch of a Borneo rain forest, botanists have identified 700 different kinds of trees — as many as exist in all of North America — and there are as many species of fish in one Brazilian river as there are in all the rivers of the United States.

The OTA, a non-partisan congressional research agency, said that the Earth's animal and plant life has experienced a slow but steady increase in diversity over the last 65 million years ago, when the dinosaurs and up to 80 per cent of the world's species vanished. But that trend has now been reversed, primarily due to the impact of humans, to where the rate of species loss in greater

than the rate at which new species evolve, the study said.

"As more natural areas are disrupted by human activities, maintenance of biological diversity becomes more dependent on conservation measures," the OTA report said. "Loss of tropical rain forests, which harbour an extraordinary diversity of species ... are of particular concern. In many tropical developing countries, high population growth and the practice of shifting agriculture employed by peasant farmers are considered the greatest threats to diversity."

Some researchers estimate that tropical deforestation — due to human activities such as paving roads, clearing land for growing crops, logging and overgrazing — costs the Earth some 10,000 plant and animal species a year and that as many as a million species could become extinct by the end of this century.

The OTA report said one way to conserve biological diversity is to maintain parks and wildlife

refuges that preserve plants and animals in natural areas, an approach called "in-situ maintenance." Another approach preserves diversity in places such as zoos, botanical gardens and seed banks that exist apart from natural habitats.

Zoos and botanical gardens have become "matchmakers" in an effort to buy time for as many species as possible until conditions are favourable for their reintroduction into the wild. New reproductive technologies, such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer and cryogenic preservation (freezing germ cells and fertilized embryos) make it possible to mate animals that fail to breed in captivity or are separated by long distances.

"On-site maintenance is the only viable means of maintaining a broad range of biological diversity in the long term," the report said. "Off-site maintenance is important in preserving a small but critical proportion of biological diversity, for example,

the thousands of plant varieties upon which agriculture depends."

Commenting on the OTA report, U.S. Representative Gus Yatron of Pennsylvania said that the United States is becoming increasingly dependent on diverse species for new medicines, food sources and industrial products.

"For example, our corn crop has been helped by the increased resistance to disease provided by crossing with Mexican wild grasses," Yatron said. "The tropical periwinkle plant has been valuable in the treatment of certain cancers."

Specialists estimate that 98 per cent of U.S. crop production is based on species that originated outside the United States and that one in every 10 plant species may contain cancer-fighting substances. The OTA study points out that since today's drugs are often synthetic chemical copies of compounds found in plants, the loss of diversity could undermine

"the exciting prospects" of this new technology.

Yatron said biological diversity is essential to the economic development of the Third World. Legislation he introduced and recently enacted by Congress earmarks \$2.5 million of 1987 funds of the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) for protection of biological diversity in developing countries. The OTA report questions the adequacy of this amount but adds that prospects of further cuts in an already reduced foreign assistance budget makes it difficult to see where further funding for diversity maintenance could be derived.

The OTA report calls on Congress to enact a national biological diversity law setting species preservation as a national objective because existing "technologies and programmes are not sufficient to prevent further erosion of biological resources" — U.S. Information Agency.

Oman opens up to tourists, but no hippies

By Haugh Boag
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — Slowly emerging from centuries of isolation, Oman is guardedly opening its ancient gates to tourists.

"Tourism is a double-edged sword. You can do it properly or you can do great damage to our society," Commerce and Industry Minister Salim Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali said in an interview with the state-run Oman Observer newspaper.

Ghazali, who oversees Oman's infant tourism directorate, insisted that the sultanate's customs and traditions should be respected by visitors. To protect its society, the government laid down new rules in a special tourism report.

"We don't want to see hippies with long hair and dirty jeans... in any part of the sultanate," Ghazali noted in the report. "We want tourists who are perhaps around 30 (years old) and up, people who are mature in both behaviour and outlook."

Opening the gates to visitors is widely seen as a big step for a country that has long shunned tourism as a menace to its traditions. Until a few years ago, Oman was a remote backwater that allowed only a handful of foreigners, mainly British army officers and oilmen, to enter the country.

Oman is a member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional economic and security pact. But only Oman among the GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar — requires visas for citizens from other countries in the alliance.

The nation's previous despotic ruler, Sultan Said Bin Taimur, refused to establish diplomatic relations with other countries. He also forbade his 650,000 people to sing or smoke in public, to wear imported shoes or go to school. The sultanate was catapulted into the 20th century after the sultan's son, Qaboos Bin Said, toppled his slave-owning father in a 1970 palace coup.

Since then, Said has changed!

the face of his ancient land. He lifted the idiosyncratic bans of his father, and he built schools, highways and factories. But amid the development, Said has striven to maintain Oman's character and traditions.

"Domestic tourism has an extremely promising future in Oman," Ghazali said. "We believe foreign tourism can also work very well here under the right conditions. We're now beginning to allow in special groups of tourists, arranged through local hotels and tour operators, who are held responsible for them."

The government intends to spend as little as possible on tourism. But it said it will offer private companies such benefits as long-term, interest-free loans to invest in tourism.

Plans include restaurants, sports facilities, a 300-boat marina and a \$6.4-million tourism institute to train Omanis for the hotel industry, said Ghazali.

Oman earns about \$9 million a day from oil exports, and can afford to be selective about tourism. Money is not the motivation behind the tourism drive, said Ghazali.

"It's simply a question of us having reached a stage in our development where we're ready for tourism," he said.

For the visitor, Oman has much to offer — archaeology, a culture that dates back to before the second century B.C., a temperate winter and 1,800 miles of coastline, much of it palm-fringed beaches.

There also are grass-covered mountains, valleys and wildlife regions, and a chain of forts dating to Portuguese colonial days four centuries ago. In the barren mountains of the interior, tribesmen wear the traditional ankle-length dashdashis and carry the distinctive khajjars, or curved Omani daggers, tucked into ornate silver belts.

Vacations in Oman don't come cheap. Most of food is imported. Hamburgers cost \$3, a loaf of French bread \$1.30. Taxi fares start at \$6 and there are no cut-price air fares.

Scientists believe extraterrestrial civilisations exist

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — Scientists searching for intelligent life in outer space say the odds, if not the evidence, tell them extraterrestrials exist. But one sceptic says that's doubtful, otherwise aliens would have visited earth by now.

"I'd be willing to bet one hundred dollars that between now and the time I die, we'll find evidence of intelligent life," said Al Hibbs, a retired space scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Hibbs moderated a debate on the issue on April 3 during the annual meeting of the committee

for the scientific investigation of claims of the paranormal, a group that debunks claims of supernatural powers.

Committee member Carl Sagan, a Cornell University astronomer, said before the debate that "in a universe of 100 billion galaxies, each of which have a few hundred billion stars, the idea that our sun is the only star with an inhabited planet is laughable."

"Where do we come off to imagine we're the only kind of life in the universe?" he asked. The speakers agreed there has yet to be a single confirmed report of an unidentified flying object, or UFO, from another planet, but most said they believed intelligent life must exist

beyond earth.

Because there is evidence planets may exist around a dozen nearby stars, and because the chemical evolution that produced life on earth exists throughout the known universe, the probability for intelligent life elsewhere is 100 per cent, said Frank Drake, dean of natural sciences at the University of California's Santa Cruz campus.

Drake said it's possible extraterrestrial tourists view earth as "a zoo" and already are here by choice not to reveal their presence.

"We are, as best we can tell, the result of completely normal processes, therefore life should be abundant in the universe," said Drake, who also is president

of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute, a NASA-funded effort to search for radio signals from alien civilisations.

But Robert Rood, a University of Virginia astronomer, argued that if advanced, intelligent civilisations existed elsewhere in our Milky Way Galaxy, at least one would have colonised the galaxy and reached earth by now.

Jill Tarter, an institute astronomer, said the organisation is seeking \$65 million from NASA to finance a new, 10-year, systematic search of the heavens for radio signals that could be signs of an alien civilisation.

Drake said simple mathematics suggests that in our galaxy alone, "once a year a new species of intelligent creatures emerges."

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Arsenal comes from behind to take Littlewoods Cup

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Charlie Nicholas scored both his team's goals as Arsenal staged a fighting recovery to beat Liverpool 2-1 Sunday in the final of the English Littlewoods Cup soccer competition at Wembley Stadium.

Under pressure for much of the game, Arsenal clinched the season's first domestic trophy with just seven minutes to go, the ball trickling over the goal-line after a shot by Nicholas took a deflection off Liverpool defender Ronnie Whelan.

It was the famous north London team's first major honour for eight years and capped a magnificent inaugural season for manager George Graham.

It was also the first time in 144 matches that Liverpool had lost when Welsh sharpshooter Ian Rush scored.

Rush, playing his last game at the home of English soccer before his end-of-season transfer to Juventus of Italy, gave the Merseysiders a 23rd-minute lead, only for Nicholas to level six minutes later.

Most of the chances thereafter fell in Liverpool but midway through the second half, the canny Graham made a substitution

that proved the turning point of the game.

Graham sent on Perry Groves for the ineffectual Niall Quinn and the left winger's pace immediately posed problems for the Liverpool back line.

As the 96,000 crowd prepared for a 30-minute period of extra time, Groves turned inside Gary Gillespie and put over a perfect cross.

Nicholas did not hit the ball cleanly but it struck Whelan — a midfielder turned emergency full-back — and trickled agonisingly over the line to win the game for the "Gunners."

Graham, a member of the Arsenal side that won both the F.A. (Football Association) Cup and league title in 1971, said afterwards: "Liverpool is the team of the last decade. To come here and beat it is a wonderful achievement."

"I don't think many people gave us much of a chance, but the team was magnificent," said Gra-



Charlie Nicholas... scored 2

ham, who moved to Arsenal at the end of last season from Second Division Millwall.

Arsenal captain Kenny Sansom, who has graced Wembley many times as a member of the English national team but never with his club, smiled broadly as he climbed the steps of the famous stadium to lift the trophy, also known as the League Cup.

As he did so, the Arsenal fans roared with delight as Liverpool's crestfallen players reflected on what might have been.

Becker disposes of Mecir to win Milan indoor tennis

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany defeated Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-3 in Sunday's final of the \$345,000 Fila Trophy indoor tennis tournament.

The 19-year-old German player, ranked second in the world, scored his first indoor victory of the season at Milan's Palatrussardi Tennis-Theater in one hour and 21 minutes.

Becker pocketed a first prize of \$55,000. Mecir, second-seeded in the competition, received \$27,500.

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champion, relied on his serve and net play to overcome the classy, 22-year-old Czech. Mecir played well from the baseline, but often was in trouble against Becker's

aggressive play.

The young German, playing his second indoor tournament of the season, served seven aces and three double faults during the final, watched by a sellout crowd of 8,000.

Mecir served three double faults, one in the final game of the second set, and a single ace.

Mecir, ranked no. 6 in the world and winner of tournaments in Auckland, Sydney and Key Biscayne this year, trounced third-seeded Swede Mats Wilander in Saturday's semifinals. Becker needed three sets to overcome his doubles partner, Yugoslav Slobodan Zivjovic, and advance to the final.

Sunday's victory upped Becker's record against Mecir to 4-2. Both finalists have entered the Dallas Tournament next week.

India crushes Australia in Sharjah Cup cricket

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — A dazzling second wicket stand of 165 between batsman Sunil Gavaskar and Azharuddin steered India to an emphatic seven-wicket triumph over Australia in the Sharjah Cup cricket tournament Sunday.

Set the modest target of 177, India passed the target in only 42 overs with Gavaskar not out on 78.

The highlight of the match was the superb knock of 84 by Azharuddin who went in after India lost cavalier opener Srikanth to the third ball of Bruce Reid's opening over.

Both Azharuddin and Gavaskar, back in the side after missing the opening match through injury, entertained the crowd of more than 10,000 with some glorious strokes.

Azharuddin, the more aggressive of the two, was out in the 38th to a brilliant catch in the gully by stand-in Australian skipper Geoff Marsh. He hit a six and four fours in 128 balls.

Gavaskar, who survived a sharp chance when Marsh failed to hold a sharp chance off Reid when only eight, batted with grace. His innings contained one six and six fours.

It was India's second victory in two matches in the four-nation tournament. Its match against

arch rival Pakistan, who won its opening game, next Friday, could well decide the outcome of the tournament.

Australia, who began the tournament with high hopes, has now lost two matches. It was completely outplayed by a razor-sharp Indian team which gave a brilliant performance on a day when nothing went right for the Australians.

Skipper Alan Border, its premier batsman, had to sit out the match after he chipped a bone on his left hand's index finger during practice.

He saw his batsmen put up an inept batting display for the second match running, leaving India a modest target on a perfect batting wicket.

Only David Boon, who scored his second 50 of the tournament, prevented a total collapse. He made a polished 62 off 113 balls, hitting three fours.

Indian spinners Maninder Singh and Ravji Shastri bowled economically but the surprise packet for India was medium pacer Manoj Prabhakar who started Australia's side by seconding back Mike Veletta and co-ordinated only 17 runs in his quota of 10 overs.

The tournament resumes on Thursday when Pakistan faces England.

Mayotte to play Pate in Chicago tournament final

CHICAGO (R) — Third seed Tim Mayotte won eight games in a row after standing one game away from eliminations and beat fellow-American Eliot Teltscher to reach the final of the \$315,000 Chicago Grand Prix Tennis Tournament.

Mayotte's eight-game skein in the second set turned the match around for a 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory and a berth in the final against

David Pate, and easy 6-3, 6-2 winner over fellow-American Bill Scanlon.

The unseeded Teltscher, who upset second seed Jimmy Connors in the quarter-finals, opened strongly against Mayotte, winning the first five games. After taking the first set 6-3, he jumped out to a 5-2 lead in the second set.

But when Teltscher's first serve started to desert him midway through the match, Mayotte was able to come in on his opponent's second serves and the tide turned.

Poland's Niemczak stripped of NY Marathon prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Poland's Antoni Niemczak, runner-up in the 1986 New York City Marathon who was disqualified when a test detected the use of a banned steroid, will not receive prize money from the event, a race official said Sunday.

The second-place prize money of \$25,000 had been withheld since the race last Nov. 1, pending an appeal by the Polish federation to the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for road racing and track and field.

But when the New York Road Runners Club, the organizers of the New York City Marathon, was informed that the appeal applied only to Niemczak's lifetime suspension by the IAAF and not his finish in the race, it decided to proceed with redistribution of the prize money.

Race director Fred Lebow said each man's finisher from places three through 16 moves up one place and will receive the difference in prize money. Gianni Poli of Italy, who won the race, is not affected by the redistribution of the prize money.

However, Rob de Castella of Australia, who finished third, now is the official second-place finisher and will receive an additional \$5,000, the difference between the two positions.

Bayern Munich dominates Kaiserslautern

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich put itself in the right frame of mind for next Wednesday's European Cup assignment against Real Madrid with a 3-0 win over Kaiserslautern in the West German First Division.

Veteran striker Dieter Hoenes opened the scoring with his 100th league goal when he headed home a free kick and Lars Lund and Hans Doerner raised the tally to three as the Champions' Cup semifinals maintained its three-point lead at the top.

Senegal edges Egypt in Davis Cup

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Yaya Dombia of Senegal defeated Khaled Baligh of Egypt 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 Sunday to lead Senegal to a 3-2 victory in a Davis Cup African Zone semifinal.

Dombia's strong serve kept him on top of Baligh throughout the match, which lasted two hours and 30 minutes.

Earlier in the day, Egypt's Nasser Hany had brought his team even at 2-2 by defeating the Senegalese ace's brother Miloud Dombia 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Yaya Dombia, who trained in France, had a hand in all three matches won by Senegal, defeating Hany in singles on Friday.

Struggling Empoli holds leader Napoli in Italy

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona failed to unlock lowly Empoli's defense and visiting Italian League leader Napoli had to settle for a goalless draw.

Maradona, who flies to Buenos Aires to see his newly-born daughter, led his side in wave upon wave of fruitless assaults on relegation-threatened Empoli.

The outcome Sunday on a day which saw three goalless First Division draws, cut Napoli's advantage to four points as Internazionale moved ahead of Roma into second place after beating Como 1-0.

Giuseppe Bergomi scored in the 53rd minute but neither team was at its best.

Roma, beaten by bottom-of-the-table Udinese last week, losing hope of catching Napoli,

nearly suffered the same fate at home to Fiorentina who went ahead in the sixth minute through Argentine Ramon Angel Diaz.

The Rome side failed to find its form and struggled until the 75th minute when Ubaldo Righetti was pushed over in the penalty area by two Fiorentina defenders.

Polish international Zbigniew Boniek, back in the side after successfully appealing against suspension, scored from the spot.

Reigning champion Juventus was held 0-0 at second-from-bottom Atalanta but remained fourth and in contention for a UEFA Cup place after Milan lost 2-1 away to Avellino.

Two goals by Angelo Alessio each side of halftime sealed Milan's fate, although Mauro Tassotti hit a 60th minute consolation from a free kick.

Marseille tops French League

PARIS (R) — Marseille routed Sochaux 4-0 to take over as leader of the French League from Bordeaux who was held to a goalless draw by reigning champion Paris-Saint-Germain.

Sochaux forward Frank Sauzeau had a nightmare match, scoring two own goals after West German defender Karlheinz Foerster had given Marseille the lead with a powerful header from a free kick by Alain Giresse.

Winger Frederic Meyrieo scored Marseille's fourth goal one minute into the second half.

In Paris PSG and Bordeaux produced a lacklustre match Saturday night marred by ill-tem-

pered incidents between players. Bordeaux seemed to be conserving its energy ahead of two tough matches in the next week. On Wednesday it has a European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal against Lokomotiv Leipzig of East Germany and on Saturday it faces Marseille in a match that may decide who wins the French League.

Third-placed Toulouse kept alive its hopes of playing in the UEFA Cup next season when it overcame a strong challenge from Nantes at home, winning 1-0. The only goal was scored by midfielder Gerald Passi late in the second half.

Sukova defeats McNeil in indoor tennis final

PISCATAWAY, New Jersey (R) — Second seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia routed fourth seed Lori McNeil of the United States 6-0, 6-3 to win the \$150,000 U.S. Women's Indoor Tennis Championships.

Sukova, ranked sixth in the world, used a powerful serve and heavy topspin passing shots to win the first six games of the 53-minute match while losing only seven points.

McNeil, a serve-and-volley player who feels more comfortable at the net, felt Sukova took the net away from her.

"This is the worst I have lost to

her," said McNeil, who advanced to the final when top seed Hana Mandlikova withdrew from their semifinal match because of a pulled stomach muscle. "She played well. She was rushing me by coming in to the net. I also had problems holding serve the whole match. It was a combination of nerves and her taking the net away from me."

The 23-year-old American held serve to open the second set but double-faulted twice in losing the third game Saturday.

"The last couple of times we played it was three sets, so I knew I had to start fast," she said. "After I broke her in the first game, I thought she was a little nervous with the television and the crowd. I got my game going and didn't let up." Sukova's record against McNeil is now 7-0.

"It feels good to win a tournament," she said. "It's been so long I can't remember what it felt like."

Sukova earned \$32,000 for the victory, while McNeil took home \$14,500.

France wins Euro Dunhill Cup

ROME (R) — Sweden gained the third qualifying place for the 16-nation Dunhill Cup golf final in St. Andrews, Scotland, in October by beating Denmark 2-1 while France edged Italy to win the European final of the event at

Olgiata Sunday. In the vital battle to see which team advanced to St. Andrews, captain Steen Tinning gave Denmark a flying start against Mats Lanner with a 68 to his opponent's 71.

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18/87	Women's Education Wshops	15.00
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Interested bidders are invited to collect tender documents from the Procurement Division at the Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education, starting April 4, 1987 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 a.m., June 14, 1987.

Director of Projects

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Bataineh

The following report summarizes trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Haim Salibi and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week, the U.S. dollar opened weak and dealers began covering their short positions on the currency. Most of this situation was because the dealers were afraid of further intervention from the central bank.

The dollar fell heavily against the Japanese yen because of the Japanese trade surplus.

The dollar traded in the range of 0.334 - 0.338 fils to the JD. Charts indicate that the dollar is going to fall more this week to new lows against the Japanese yen and the Deutsch mark (D.M.).

The expected ranges for this week are 0.330 - 0.336 fils. The pound sterling gained ground against the dollar mainly because of the short covering on the currency and the high interest rates. It jumped from a low of 0.5450 fils on the JD to 0.5525 fils and from 2.90 on the

D.M. to 2.94.

The D.M./S.F. moved in a very narrow and mixed range. D.M. traded between 0.1825 - 0.1885 fils and S.F. between 0.220 - 0.2285 fils. The Lebanese pound (L.L.) moved higher against the dollar because of the better political and military situation in Lebanon. It traded between (290-320) L.L./J.D.

The Syrian lira traded between (72-77) S.L./J.D. and the Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.2150 to 1.2250 on the J.D. The Egyptian pound traded between 0.178-0.185 fils and the Iraqi dinar between 0.24-0.28 fils.

Metals traded still higher because of the uncertainty among the currency market.

Gold jumped from a low of \$421 an ounce to \$428 an ounce. Silver from \$6.30 an ounce to \$6.50 an ounce. Charts indicate that the metals should move up higher this week towards \$433 an ounce. Silver towards \$6.75 an ounce.

Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletin issued by the Jordan Jewellery Store Company are as follows: Gold per gramme 21 carats J.D. 4.150-3.900 Gold per gramme 18 carats J.D. 4.00-3.850

Protectionism may increase, Conable says

WASHINGTON (R) — World Bank President Barber Conable expressed concern that trade protectionism, at the heart of a new showdown between the United States and Japan, might spread throughout the industrial world.

But in an interview with Reuters, Mr. Conable said the U.S. decision to slap high tariffs on certain electronic goods from Japan did not mean the countries were heading for a full-scale trade war.

He said the World Bank has been pressing developing countries to open their markets, arguing that a free trading environment increases the possibility of global economic growth. "We have, in fact, been making adjustment loans to many countries in the developing world which have encouraged the opening of their markets, and we want to be sure that the developed world doesn't close at the same time," he said.

Mr. Conable said the U.S. action against Japan was "a significant retaliatory step, but it did not constitute a basic change in trade policy."

The interview came just before the semi-annual meetings of the bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Referring to Brazil's recent debt interest payments moratorium, Mr. Conable also said the global debt situation was very serious and must be closely watched.

He said the bank, which in the past has concentrated on making loans that assist the basic underpinnings in the developing world such as dams, roads and sewers, will increasingly make assistance available for economic reform.

The bank has increased these loans, in part because of the debt crisis that has found countries desperately in need of new funds for balance-of-payments adjustment and economic reforms aimed at opening their markets, encouraging foreign investments and reducing government's role in the economy.

"We're comfortable with adjustment lending. We expect, however, that it will never reach a majority of our portfolio," Mr. Conable said.

He made clear, however, that adjustment lending would continue to increase as a proportion of overall World Bank lending for some time.

He noted that "the problem of debt was a severe one and many countries are asking for adjustment assistance because of the problem of debt."

Mr. Conable, a former Republican congressman from New York, was chosen by President Reagan for the World Bank post last year. He is an associate of Treasury Secretary James Baker, who launched the U.S. strategy for shoring up indebted nations in October 1985 which included a call for increased adjustment lending by the World Bank.

Mr. Conable said he expected the result of a major study of the bank's organization to be completed in the next several weeks.

Trade of 21 industrial states nears \$3 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trade of 21 industrial countries hit a record \$2.997 trillion in 1986, up more than 14 per cent from the year before, according to figures published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Sunday.

The \$604 billion U.S. trade total and the country's \$169 billion trade deficit for the year also broke records.

West Germany's trade surplus doubled to \$32 billion, and for the first time its total exports were greater than those of the United States, by \$243 billion to

\$217 billion. The value of West German exports rose by more than 32 per cent, but only one per cent in volume, reflecting the rise in the value of the West German mark.

In February, the value of the mark was 9.17 per cent higher than a year before. The dollar was

11.38 per cent lower.

The value of U.S. imports was \$387 billion, to \$191 billion for West Germany.

Japan's trade surplus reached \$83 billion, another record, but Japan's trade volume was still smaller than that of the United States, with Japanese exports of \$210 billion and imports of \$127 billion.

Japan's trade picture looked different in terms of quantities. The volume of its exports dropped by 2.4 per cent, though their value increased by \$19 billion. Imports rose in volume by 12.7

per cent while they dropped in value by 2.2 per cent.

The difference appeared to be due largely to the drop in the value of the dollar and the rise of the yen, 10.07 per cent from February 1985 to February 1986.

Britain's deficit also increased sharply, to \$19 billion from \$7 billion in 1985. The French deficit dropped to \$4 billion from \$6 billion.

As a group, the 21 countries reduced their deficit sharply, to \$65 billion from \$102 billion. They increased the value of their reserves, not counting gold, to

the equivalent of \$332 billion.

For 60 poorer countries, reserves dropped again as they have since 1984, reaching \$183 billion in January of this year. According to the fund's accounting, this is the lowest reserve figure for the 60 countries since 1979.

Trade figures for 1986 were incomplete for the poorer countries. For the first nine months, the countries had a collective \$19 billion trade deficit, compared with a deficit of \$4 billion for all of 1985.

IEA forecasts slower growth in OECD oil demand in 1987

PARIS (R) — The rise in the West's use of oil is likely to slow this year, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Monday.

It said growth in oil consumption in the Western industrialized nations is likely to be around one per cent after 2.3 per cent in 1986.

If so, it will be disappointing news for the Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The oil group, pinched by the prevailing world glut, hopes for steadily rising demand.

The IEA said that, in the first three months of this year, oil use in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) rose by around one per cent. It reached 35.9 million barrels daily.

Most of the rise in the use of oil is likely to continue to come from transport. But, the IEA says, if prices to the consumer rise, that may mean that this year's rise in the use of transport fuel is less than the 1986 figure of 3.6 per cent.

The IEA monthly report also said the volume of oil coming to the world market fell in the first three months of this year.

OPEC has curbed its production to try to tighten the market and underpin a price of around \$18 a barrel — some 20 per cent higher than ruling prices late in 1986.

World oil supply fell to 45.2 million barrels daily in the first quarter of this year, from 47.5 in the last 1986 quarter. OPEC crude oil output fell to around 15.5 million barrels daily in February-March, from 16.5 million in January.

A drop in Saudi Arabian output to a tentatively forecast 3.3 million barrels daily in March from 3.6 million in February was the largest factor behind the OPEC decline, the IEA said.

That confirms word from industry sources and market analysts that the Saudis have turned down the taps to help OPEC maintain its \$18 price.

IEA estimates on April 1, meanwhile, put the industrialized nations' oil stocks at 428 million tonnes, enough for 98 days and about the same as at the beginning of the year.

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Western nations agree to ease debt burden of African countries

KNOXHEIST, Belgium (R) — Western creditor governments have agreed in principle on proposals for easing the burden of debt on sub-Saharan African countries, which include some of the poorest nations in the world, British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson has disclosed.

He told journalists Saturday that the agreement, reached in the so-called Paris Club of Western governments, calls for rescheduling the debts of sub-Saharan African countries over long periods and on very favourable terms.

The proposals will be put forward for discussion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Development Committee which meets in Washington next week, he said.

Mr. Lawson said that under the scheme, countries could be given 15 or 20 years to repay their debts with a so-called grace period — a number of years in which they would not have to pay back anything — at the beginning.

The favourable terms, however, would not be offered indiscriminately to all nations in the region but would be granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Paris Club groups Western governments — as opposed to commercial banks — which are owed money by poorer nations.

Mr. Lawson was speaking after an informal gathering of European Community finance ministers and central bankers at this Belgian coastal resort to prepare for talks on international monetary issues and Third World debt at next week's meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur said he insisted at gathering that developed countries took adequate account of problems facing poorer nations that were trying to put their economies in order. He said he would make proposals in Washington for dealing with the Third World debt problem.

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Bangladesh, Pakistan open trade talks

DHAKA (R) — The second meeting of the Pakistan-Bangladesh joint economic commission began Sunday with officials predicting a substantial increase in bilateral trade.

It is the first meeting since the commission's inaugural round of talks in 1979.

Commerce Minister M.A. Mumin, leading the Bangladesh team at the three-day meeting, said the talks would provide an opportunity to review economic cooperation and would help

promote trade and commerce.

He said that despite the long gap since the 1979 meeting, Dhaka and Islamabad had reached several agreements that had helped to promote relations.

Mr. Mumin did not say what caused the eight-year delay between meetings.

Pakistani Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Yasin Khan Watto told reporters on his arrival in Dhaka Saturday night that trade between the two countries increased to \$120 million in 1986 from \$33 million in 1976.

The figure would have been much higher if the commission had met regularly, he said and added that steps would be taken to avoid delays in future.

Bangladesh exports mainly raw jute, jute goods and tea to Pakistan and in return buys machinery, cotton and textiles.

Mr. Watto said the commission would discuss possible joint ventures in textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and electronics.

Iraq urges ESCWA to enhance negotiating power

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior Iraqi official Saturday urged member states of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to acquire stronger negotiating power in talks with developed countries.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan was speaking at the opening of the group's annual meeting, attended by representatives of its 13 member states.

He said the deteriorating world economic and political situation and resultant "grave repercussions" on the economies of developing countries necessitate that ESCWA direct its programmes towards achieving more self-dependency.

Mr. Ramadan said this should be part of efforts to restructure world economic relations and widen cooperation to boost negotiating power with developed countries.

ESCWA members are Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and North and South Yemen.

Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hassan Tawfiq was reelected chairman of ESCWA's 14th session. He said the two-day meeting was being held "under grave challenges facing the states of the region."

The meeting will discuss a plan for 1990-95, the ESCWA budget, a report on the economic and social impact of the return of expatriates to labour-exporting states in the region, and social welfare issues.

The meeting is also being attended by representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, several U.N. bodies and specialised agencies.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have considerable ingenuity and resourcefulness today. Use it to get out from under any problem facing you. Make progress in home interests and property matters.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Do whatever will most please your family. Wait until evening before you invite friends into your home.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact those with whom you have to decide important matters. State your terms, but listen to theirs too.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get rid of an indebtedness and be free from worry. Use your own good judgment today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may find it difficult to get conditions set up as you want them, but persistence brings results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Go after private aims wisely and they will be easy to attain. Gain your mate's devotion and be happier together.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Do not be depressed because a trusted friend is unable to help you work out a problem at this time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into civic interests and show that you are an A-1 citizen. Show your gratitude to a bigwig if he helps you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A delay may occur in some course of action you have started, but this gives you a chance to make needed repairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Look into new outlets. Go after the data you need and put it to use. Be enthusiastic and happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you want to have a better understanding with a noisy partner, be more willing to give explanations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study into regular activities and see how to become more efficient. Do something about a troublesome co-worker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have doubts about a pleasure you have planned, but as the day passes your enthusiasm returns.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY — he, or she, will want everything in fine order and will work hard to attain this, so be encouraging in this so that your progeny will not get discouraged. Although one who will deliberate a good deal, the energy here is great. A most conscientious person in this chart.

THE Daily Crossword

By Susan Mindell

ACROSS
1 Gate usually
6 "the valley"
10 Widow of a knight
14 Law and —
15 Approach
16 Wren
17 Remains on a promise
18 Tough spot
20 Hysterical; able
21 Town
22 Gluts
23 Colder button
24 Encourage
26 Aureole
28 Having keen vision
33 Journals
36 Harvest
38 Eggs
39 Artistic lady
39 Was inquisitive
40 — out (made do)
41 Long time period
42 Golf needs
43 Church
45 Very stubborn
46 Free from trouble
48 "She's a land"
50 Porveto
52 Cupid
56 Young fellow
58 Promenade
60 Put on the back burner
63 Otherwise
64 Televised off
65 Gaudy
66 Leading lady
67 Selling place
68 Street lane

DOWN
1 Piece of
2 Oak or maple
3 Herb, month
4 Legal point
5 Certain muscle
6 Secret
7 Broadway sign
8 Or, letter
9 Leftover morsel
10 Discussion
11 Dismounted
12 Horse's hair
13 Calls it a day
14 Actor doesn't
15 Look slowly
16 Winter vehicle
17 Author James
18 Cutting edge
19 Asian capital
20 Minkling
21 Rebel
22 Concoct
23 Each and —
24 Fathers
25 Chick's sound
26 Utter
27 Lively colors
28 Cheese
29 Hardy heroine
30 Uncovered
31 Yarn for
32 Make crazy
33 Old card game
34 Is in debt
35 Bear ingredient
36 Mammal
37 A dash with
38 Pronoun
39 Traditional
40 Inter
41 Legal paper
42 Jack of clubs
43 A dash with
44 Pronoun

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TIXYS
ROAPE
STYJUL
HIRTHE

WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO YAWN, IT COULD BE A HINT TO OTHERS TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BASIC OFTEN REDEEM SUBURS
Answer: What many a used car is not — WHAT IT USED TO BE

New U.S. embassy in Moscow 'may be bugged'

NEW YORK (R) — Senior U.S. officials believe a new embassy being built in Moscow with Soviet-made modules might be bugged, the New York Times said Sunday.

It said some officials and members of Congress wanted the \$190 million building, whose structures were designed with the help of a Soviet engineer, to be scrapped. "One former official recalled that the Nixon administration agreed in 1972, over State Department objections, to allow the prefabrication of construction modules," the paper said.

It said the site where they were built had not been open to U.S. inspection.

In contrast, the Soviet Union insisted that its embassy in Washington be built with components made on site and under its observation," the newspaper said.

Experts disagreed on whether all the listening devices that might be in the new U.S. embassy could be neutralised, the newspaper said.

Even if they could be, the process would cost from \$20 million to \$40 million, it said. The building has already cost more than twice as much as planned.

"Common sense would tell the average American citizen, without benefit of security or diplomatic training, that it would be foolish to allow a United States embassy to be designed and constructed by Soviets," the paper quoted a Senate staff report as saying.

Two Marines who were guards at the existing embassy on the

same site currently face espionage charges for allowing Soviet agents to enter.

The U.S. government still seems unwilling to take proper security precautions even though there have been a record 26 U.S. spy convictions in three years, the Times said in an editorial.

Meanwhile a magazine reported Saturday electric typewriters at the U.S. embassy in Moscow were tapped with electronic listening devices by Soviet agents permitted to roam the building by U.S. Marines involved in a sex and spy scandal.

U.S. News and World Report said damage from the scandal, in which Marines allegedly had affairs with Soviet women working with Soviet intelligence operatives, could be costly in terms of lost U.S. intelligence.

And it said it may cost up to \$100 million to replace coding equipment, debugging devices and take other security measures.

Two Marines now facing espionage charges, Sergeant Clayton Lonetree and Corporal Arnold Bracy, had helped sneak Soviet agents into the embassy's most secure areas during their relationship with two Soviet women, the magazine said.

Quoting what it described as a well-placed source in Moscow, the magazine said in its current issue that Soviet "agents were able to tap into the electric typewriters on those floors, with elec-

tronic devices capable of intercepting incoming and outgoing cable traffic."

Soviet space module malfunctions

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet space module came within 200 metres of the manned orbiting station Mir Sunday when docking manoeuvres were halted due to a malfunction, the Soviet News Agency TASS said.

TASS said Kvant, a module for space research that was launched last Tuesday, had been approaching Mir normally when operations were stopped because of problems with the module's directional systems.

Two Soviet cosmonauts have been living since Feb. 8 aboard Mir, one of a new generation of Soviet spacecraft that is due to become the heart of a permanent orbiting station.

TASS said Soviet experts were analysing data from Kvant to determine whether docking manoeuvres could be resumed.

Kvant has been described in the Soviet media as a fundamentally new kind of space vehicle intended for astrophysical observation and other scientific research.

It was due to hook up with one of six docking ports on Mir, which has launched in February 1986 and is currently manned by cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin who have begun a series of space experiments.

Their mission is the second to Mir after cosmonauts Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Soloviyov travelled to the craft last year and made the first transfer of space men from one station to another during a voyage lasting from March 13 to July 16.

Poll shows Thatcher party widening lead

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party has widened its lead over opposition parties to 12 percentage points, according to a public opinion poll.

The poll, in early editions of Sunday Times, and another in the Sunday Express also putting the Conservatives ahead, seemed certain to increase pressure on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to call an early general election.

The Sunday Times survey showed the Conservatives on 41 per cent, with both the opposition Labour Party and centrist Alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats trailing on 29 per cent.

It was conducted during Mrs. Thatcher's visit to Moscow last week, which was hailed by the British media as an almost unprecedented triumph.

Another poll, conducted in 50 key constituencies, where the current member of parliament held only a narrow majority in the last general elections in 1983, showed the Conservatives leading with 36 per cent, the Alliance second with 32 per cent and

Labour third on 28 per cent. This survey, in the Sunday Express, confirmed a recent trend suggesting that the Alliance has overtaken Labour.

Mrs. Thatcher, bidding for an unprecedented third consecutive term of office, does not have to call elections until June 1988. But she is widely expected to go to the country at some point this year, either in June, September or October.

Social Democratic Party leader David Owen predicted Friday that Mrs. Thatcher would call an election for May 7, to coincide with local council elections being held the same day.

On Saturday night, he said the new poll strengthened his view. "I think they will be very tempted — especially as they have got through the 40 per cent threshold. The only thing that will stop her is fear of us," he said.

The Sunday Times poll would have given Mrs. Thatcher a comfortable overall parliamentary majority of 82 seats if translated into an election result.

Pope pleads anew for peace in Chile

CONCEPCION, Chile (AP) — Pope John Paul II has denounced torture and pleaded for reconciliation in troubled Chile, hours after violent clashes between police and anti-government protesters upset his mass for peace.

Addressing tens of thousands of people in the southern city of Punta Arenas, the Pope quoted from a Vatican document denouncing "those violations that attack life and the integrity of the human person."

"In particular, it condemns the practice of moral and physical torture," he said.

He did not specifically denounce the 13-and-a-half-year-old military rule of President Augusto Pinochet, a general and commander of the army. Human rights groups have accused Chilean security forces of torturing political opponents and violating other human rights.

The Pope also told his audience to "eradicate all types of violence. You must find concrete means of creating a true culture of peace and harmony."

After speaking in Punta Arenas, the Pope flew late Saturday to Concepcion, Chile's third-largest city, 500 kilometres north of Puerto Montt and 418

kilometres south west of Santiago. The pontiff blessed the populace over television and then retired. He was to travel later Sunday to aid northern Chile.

His appeal came after at least 261 people were wounded when anti-government protesters clashed with security forces in a park in the capital of Santiago as the Pope celebrated mass.

First aid officials said 220 people were treated for fractures and bruises and eight were sent to intensive care units. Police said 38 officers were injured, four of them seriously, and three civilians suffered bullet wounds.

Such clashes have occurred since the Pope arrived in Chile on Wednesday, but Friday night's violence was the worst.

Vatican officials said the Pope never felt in danger, although the clashes occurred not far from the platform where he was officiating at mass.

The leaders of Chile's Roman Catholic Church issued a statement, saying: "We protest against this offence against the Holy Father... This incredible attack which caused injuries to the police, to papal guards, journalists, priests and the Chilean people."

Grandmother pregnant with triplets belonging to daughter

LONDON (AP) — A South African grandmother is pregnant with test-tube triplets belonging to her daughter and son-in-law, a British newspaper reported Sunday.

The Mail on Sunday said 48-year-old Pat Anthony has agreed to become a surrogate mother and bear her own grandchildren because her daughter and son-in-law, Alcino and Karen Ferreira-Jorge, are unable to have more children.

Mrs. Ferreira-Jorge had her uterus removed three years ago after giving birth to the couple's only child, Alcino Jr., the London weekly said.

"I am a grandmother who is carrying and will bear her own grandchildren," Mrs. Anthony was quoted as saying. "They will be very special indeed."

She is three months pregnant after undergoing the test-tube operation, known scientifically as in vitro fertilisation, in a Johannesburg clinic shortly after Christmas, the paper said.

Mrs. Ferreira-Jorge's ova, or eggs, were surgically removed and fertilised with her husband's sperm in a laboratory dish, and the fertilised embryo was placed in her mother's uterus, the paper said.

Ferreira-Jorge, 33, a refrigeration engineer, was quoted as saying, "I couldn't be more delighted that my mother-in-law will give birth to my children."

Mrs. Ferreira-Jorge, 25, nearly died giving birth to her son three years ago, the paper said.

"I was terribly depressed," she was quoted as saying. "Alcino and I had wanted four or five children. A couple of friends offered to become surrogate mothers but we didn't go ahead. Then my mother stepped in, despite her age."

"We never expected triplets," she was quoted as saying. "Four healthy eggs were transplanted into my mother and only one has not survived."

Thai politician apologises after remarks against army chief

BANGKOK (R) — About 300 soldiers blockaded the home of former Thai Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj for six hours Sunday after he accused the army chief of wanting to set up a Communist government.

The elite Rangers lifted their blockade of access roads to Kukrit's house in central Bangkok after he pledged not to make any more statements that could cause misunderstandings between the military and the public.

Armed soldiers with loudhailers earlier demanded that Mr. Kukrit, an influential newspaper columnist, apologise for his remarks last week about army chief Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

Mr. Kukrit told reporters later some battalion commanders called on him during the blockade to express concern at the remarks. He said their discussion was friendly.

Mr. Kukrit, 76, said in a public panel discussion last week that Gen. Chavalit wanted to head a revolution to change the system of government and revamp the

country's economic base. Gen. Chavalit "wants a Communist system with the king at the head — a Royal Communist Party of Thailand," Mr. Kukrit said at the discussion.

He said Sunday he was sorry his statements had given the impression he thought Gen. Chavalit was a Communist. He added he would exercise caution in future in expressing his opinions.

Gen. Chavalit, a supporter of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, has called for economic and political reforms to better the lot of ordinary Thais, most of whom are peasants.

Ecuador hit by over 50 mudslides; 100 feared dead

QUITO (R) — Rescue workers have fanned out along an Ecuadorian coastal highway clearing away mud to search for survivors of mudslides which buried up to five buses and killed as many as 100 people, authorities said.

They said the only known survivors were 18 passengers rescued Friday from a bus which was partly buried on the highway.

Operating in two fronts, a 100-strong force of soldiers, police and firemen used shovels to dig through a torrent of mud, tree trunks, boulders and other debris, the military said.

Witnesses said more than 50 mudslides hit different sections of a 70-kilometre stretch of highway near the Pacific Ocean two days ago. Several kilometres of the roadway disappeared completely.

"The movement of earth was so great that it is impossible to know all of what it carried away," Miguel Gonzalez, mayor of Azuquez, told Reuters by telephone. His town, 450 kilometres from here, was near an area where witnesses said up to five

buses and isolated huts were buried in the mud.

At the nearby town of El Triunfo, soldiers pulled 15 corpses out of a mass of mud Saturday, Army General Ramiro Ricarte told reporters.

The eighteen bus passengers rescued Friday were from a bus which was partly buried at a nearby site.

As the magnitude of the mudslides became known, including the damage to the huts, civil defence board officials said they feared up to 100 people could have died, though they added it was impossible to calculate an exact death toll.

The mudslides caused by heavy rainfall this week have blocked the highway from Guayaquil, Ecuador's biggest city located on the Pacific coast, to the Andean city of Cuenca, the country's third largest city.

The disaster occurred nearly one month after a devastating March 5 earthquake killed up to 1,000 people and made 75,000 people homeless in north eastern Ecuador.

Seoul worried about U.S. gesture towards Pyongyang

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean newspapers expressed concern Sunday about recent U.S. overtures toward North Korea that are aimed at easing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The Korea Herald, an English-language daily sometimes reflecting Seoul's official views, said South Korea "is wary of this rapprochement policy."

The U.S. State Department announced early last month it was dropping a ban against U.S. diplomats having contacts with North Koreans, including those they might meet at international conferences.

South Korean newspapers, quoting sources in Washington, reported over the weekend that the United States recently offered

"humanitarian trade," involving medicines and foodstuffs, with North Korea, if the latter agreed to begin talks with Seoul and participate in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Washington has diplomatic ties with Seoul but not with Pyongyang.

The Korea Times, an independent English-language daily in Seoul, said in an editorial that "one may have to wait for Pyongyang's response with fingers crossed."

But it added that "comprehensive steps should be worked out to meet any complicated situation that may have created by Pyongyang's outward counteractions or by other factors, in view of Pyongyang's unpredictability."

U.S. chemical warehouse fire forces 10,000 to flee

MINOT, North Dakota (AP) — A fire has ignited toxic chemicals in an agricultural warehouse, spewing a black, pungent cloud that injured 37 people and forced an estimated 10,000 people to flee their homes.

Winds blew the cloud over the middle of the city of 32,800 people and across the Canadian border, 80 kilometres to the north.

Thirty-seven emergency workers and other people who became ill from the fumes were taken to hospitals, said police Sgt. Steve Kukowski. They were treated and released.

At the height of the fire "balls

of fire" were shooting more than 40 feet into the air, said Ward County Sheriff's Lt. Ken Alexander.

The Westchem Agricultural Chemicals Inc. warehouse contained parathion, an insecticide, and other farm chemicals, said Lt. Dennis Smetena.

Residents in the path of the cloud were advised to leave their homes, said Kukowski.

They were directed toward small towns east and west of Minot and to State Highway Department building on the eastern edge of town, said Kukowski.

Tamil rebels kill 175 in reprisals, paper says

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil rebel group has killed more than 175 rival separatist guerrillas in the past four days in apparent revenge for a grenade attack on one of its leaders, a newspaper said Sunday.

The state-run Sunday Observer said more than 175 Tamils had been gunned down by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since Wednesday.

A government spokesman told Reuters at least 150 had been killed, but there was no independent confirmation of either figure.

"The witch-hunt is continuing even today," the spokesman said. He said the killings were in retaliation for a grenade attack last Monday that seriously injured the LTTE's Jaffna commander, Sathasivampillai Krishnakumar.

The LTTE is the largest of five main rebel groups fighting to set up an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna, arrived in Colombo Saturday for talks with President J.R. Jayawardene on a renewed Indian proposal to mediate in the conflict, officials said.

Informed sources said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had indicated that Tamil leaders could be persuaded to resume peace talks if Colombo halted military operations against the rebels and completely lifted a fuel embargo on Jaffna.

The northern city, a rebel stronghold, has been under a government blockade since January.

Polish powder milk found contaminated in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The south eastern port of Chittagong was placed on alert Saturday after scientists found a shipment of Polish powdered milk "unsafe for human consumption" because of radiation contamination from the Chernobyl disaster.

Officials at the port, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press by telephone that the alert was issued to prevent sales of the milk found to contain "high levels of radioactive elements."

The 7,000 tonnes of milk reached the port two weeks ago. Part of the shipment has already been unloaded but customs officials said they would not release the milk to the Bangladesh importers who purchased it.

Scientists at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission discovered the radiation during testing which has been conducted on Soviet, European and Scandinavian milk and milk products since the April 1986 Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union.

The scientists found the recent shipment had been "contaminated by radiation as a result of the Chernobyl disaster," said Abdur Rab, a senior scientist at the

commission said. Mr. Rab told the AP that it was the first time the commission found harmful radiation levels in Bangladesh.

Mr. Rab said scientists have asked the government to expand the authority of the commission and test non-milk food products from the Soviet Union, Europe and Scandinavia before allowing them to be sold in Bangladesh.

In a separate development an opposition leader warned Sunday that the Bangladesh government's failure to tackle the current food crisis could lead to famine.

"People in the north of the country are living in near-famine conditions because the government is incapable of handling the food crisis," Begum Khaleda Zia told a news conference.

A Food Ministry report said recently that rice prices had soared by at least 25 per cent in the past month.

Mrs. Khaleda, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said corruption among officials and failure to procure enough grain supplies at the right time had contributed to the crisis.

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Renoir painting stolen

LONDON (R) — A Renoir painting valued at \$450,000 (\$720,000) has been stolen from a London art dealer, police has said. Scotland Yard said the painting by the 19th century French artist, entitled the Vase of Flowers, was taken from the Wildenstein Gallery between Friday and Saturday night. The thieves broke in by forcing the front door.

Bald eagle gets new cornea

DAVIS, California (AP) — A bald eagle has received a new cornea in what doctors here believe was the first such transplant in a bird. Dr. Mark Mammis, who said he has performed over 800 cornea transplants in human eyes, said the 75-minute operation went smoothly Friday, but that it will be several weeks before doctors know if there are any complications. "We really altered very little from what we do in a human transplant," Dr. Mammis told a news conference. Dr. Chris Murphy, a member of the University of California Veterinary Medical Hospital staff who also participated in the operation, said the only reason for the transplant was to give the bird an outside chance to return to the wild and survive. The bird, a 9.5-pound, 2-year-old male named Shaman with about a 6-foot wingspan, is one of only 16 bald eagles believed to be on Santa Catalina Island off the southern California coast. Bald eagles are an endangered species and have been brought to the island from other states in a wildlife protection programme. Dr. Murphy said Shaman was recaptured last summer after one year in the wild because he appeared to be having trouble competing for prey. He was found to have lost sight in the left eye, possibly as a result of wounds from cactus spines. Dr. Murphy said the cornea came from a much older bald eagle from Wisconsin. Veterinarians determined the bird's chances of recovery from its multiple ailments were very slim.

Price of Rock Hudson home slashed

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — The asking price for actor Rock Hudson's home has been slashed to \$2.9 million from \$7 million, but some prospective buyers have been reluctant to even go inside for fear of catching AIDS, a real estate broker says. "A lot of potential buyers were nervous," said the broker, Elaine Young. "They won't even go in the house. There are a few who have fear of catching AIDS from touching things." The two-story Mediterranean-style house has been on the market for six months. Hudson died Oct. 2, 1985, of complications of AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The deadly disease is most common among male homosexuals and intravenous drug abusers who share contaminated needles. Medical experts say the disease, which destroys the body's immune system, is spread through transmission of bodily fluids, not through casual contact. There is no known cure.

Couple rescued after 13 days in car

NORTON, Kansas (AP) — A couple trapped in their car by roof-high snowdrifts after taking a wrong turn in a blizzard were rescued after living for 13 days on cookies, diet soft drinks and water from snow, authorities said. Nellie Obendorf, 65, and her husband, Orville, 70, were listed in satisfactory condition Saturday night at Norton County Hospital. "I was going to plow out a road for the mailman, and I noticed a car over there," said farmer Gayle Schmitz, who found the couple. "I saw something move inside the car, and I thought, somebody left a dog in there. Then I saw a head stick up in the window, and then another head, so I knew there were two people in there." The couple got stuck on March 22, 13 days earlier. The car's white top had blended in with the snow. "Other than being weak, they weren't in too bad a shape, for being out there that long," said Norton County Deputy Sheriff Scott Griffiths. "We couldn't get too much out of them, and they became disoriented shortly after we got them out. They were too weak to even walk." Mrs. Obendorf, a diabetic, told the Hays Daily News in a telephone interview she had enough insulin in the car to survive the ordeal. "It was miserable, but we survived," she said. She and her husband were on their way to visit her sister when they got stranded. They had enough blankets to keep from freezing, but their only food was one box of cookies, Mrs. Obendorf said.

Prince Edward in no hurry to get married

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II's youngest son, Prince Edward, has said he is in no hurry to get married. Prince Edward, 23, who quit the Marines in January and has not yet decided on a job, made a television guest appearance on a British Broadcasting Corp. Children's programme, "Superstore," and answered questions posed in by viewers. Asked how he felt about his two older brothers and sister being married, the prince said, "I think it's great." But as far as his marital plans were concerned, he said, "I am in no hurry at all." Prince Edward, an amateur actor, jokingly described his hobby as "trying to make a fool of myself on stage." He also confessed a fondness for pranks, saying he sometimes uses a fake telephone voice to trick friends and once stuck "out-of-order" stickers on an elevator.

'Egyptians must be told about AIDS'

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has said all Egyptians must be educated about the killer disease AIDS and know how it is spread, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. "I want every citizen to understand the truth about this disease and how it is spread," he said. "This should be done without exaggeration so that each person will know how to prevent this disease without fear or panic." Mr. Mubarak, in his first public comment on AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), was speaking during a visit to a new hospital in the southern town of Assiut during campaigning for Monday's parliamentary elections. Health Minister Ragheb Owidar, accompanying Mr. Mubarak, said there had been only a few cases of AIDS in Egypt, which has a population of 51 million. He said they were confined to non-Egyptians. Only three cases of AIDS, a disease which breaks down the body's immune system, have been reported in Egypt; all involving non-Egyptians. Mr. Mubarak's statement coincided with the airing on state television of a programme on AIDS. The short programme, presented by an Egyptian doctor, was the government's first attempt to educate Egyptians about the disease.

Moi orders dismissal of corrupt policemen

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has ordered the commissioner of police to clean up the police force and dismiss any officers found to be corrupt or to have harassed innocent people. He has told a rally in the town of Githunguri, north of Nairobi, that during a recent campaign against illegal aliens, policemen had beaten up people on the pretext that they were acting on the president's orders. Mr. Moi's speech was reported by the official Kenya News Agency. An Ugandan teacher arrested in the western town of Kisumu during the campaign later died in police custody and the Ugandan government has published a medical report concluding that Kenyan police beat and tortured him. Mr. Moi said policemen had aided and abetted robberies, helped criminals escape justice and broken into people's homes on the grounds that they were looking for illegal immigrants. Others had given foreign journalists false information alleging human rights abuses in Kenya, he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
47 ♠AKQ103 ♣A88 ♠AJ106
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
7
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4A ♠AKJ9 ♠109762 ♣KJ7
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4Q9 ♠K7 ♠AQ10982 ♠876
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dble
- Pass 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
4A ♠Q873 ♠J10842 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
45 ♠Q53 ♠AQ10942 ♠862
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
493 ♠KJ10763 ♠854 ♠46
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?